

CALIFORNIA REGISTERED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST (REHS) DISASTER MANAGEMENT PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. In an emergency, pit privies should be at least how many feet from lakes, streams, and wells?**
 - A. 50 feet
 - B. 100 feet
 - C. 150 feet
 - D. 200 feet
- 2. How far can beta particles travel in the air?**
 - A. 1 meter
 - B. 2 meters
 - C. 5 meters
 - D. 10 meters
- 3. How many steps are listed for implementing a boil water order after service resumes?**
 - A. 3 steps
 - B. 4 steps
 - C. 5 steps
 - D. 6 steps
- 4. Which outcome is achieved by integrated planning for pet sheltering or co-sheltering?**
 - A. Excluding all pets from shelters to simplify planning
 - B. Providing only pet shelters separate from humans
 - C. Reunification only after months
 - D. Ensuring pet care, separation where needed, and reunification processes
- 5. What must be done after the two-week storage period for garbage stored on-site?**
 - A. Offsite disposal only
 - B. Onsite disposal is required
 - C. Continue storage indefinitely
 - D. Dispose by burning

6. Which statement correctly describes ionization chamber measurement?

- A. It measures ionization without amplification
- B. It measures ionization with amplification
- C. It detects energy of gamma photons
- D. It measures dose rate directly

7. Which of the following describes Air Curtain Incineration?

- A. portable incinerator that is fuel intensive and doesn't kill all micros
- B. an industrial scale stationary incinerator with low energy use
- C. a water curtain barrier to reduce emissions
- D. a method of burying waste

8. What is the first priority in solid waste disposal during a disaster?

- A. Management of waste at mass feeding operations, shelters, and hospitals
- B. Recycling only
- C. Burning all waste on site
- D. Export to outside regions

9. Roentgen measures what?

- A. The energy deposited in tissue
- B. Exposure to gamma or x rays in air
- C. The total radioactivity of a source
- D. Dose equivalent in rem

10. In a radiation incident, the hot zone corresponds to exposure level of approximately how many mR/hr?

- A. 2 mR/hr
- B. 10 mR/hr
- C. 20 mR/hr
- D. 50 mR/hr

Answers

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1. B
2. B
3. B
4. D
5. B
6. A
7. B
8. A
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. In an emergency, pit privies should be at least how many feet from lakes, streams, and wells?

- A. 50 feet
- B. 100 feet**
- C. 150 feet
- D. 200 feet

Protecting drinking water sources from human waste by keeping latrines a safe distance away is the key idea. Pit privies can release pathogens through leachate that moves through soil or via surface runoff, so placing them at a safe setback from lakes, streams, and wells reduces the chance that contaminated water will be consumed or used. The 100-foot minimum is a commonly taught emergency guideline because it strikes a practical balance between rapid setup in disaster conditions and ensuring a protective buffer for groundwater and surface water sources. A smaller distance, like 50 feet, increases risk of contamination, while distances like 150 or 200 feet go beyond the minimum and aren't required in this standard scenario. If water tables are shallow, soils are sandy, or flood risk is high, you would want to increase this setback or take additional water protection measures.

2. How far can beta particles travel in the air?

- A. 1 meter
- B. 2 meters**
- C. 5 meters
- D. 10 meters

Beta particles are fast electrons emitted by certain radioactive decays. In air they interact with air molecules and lose energy mainly through ionization, so their range is limited. For most beta emitters you encounter, a practical travel distance in air is about two meters. This makes two meters the best fit among the options, since one meter is generally a bit short for many beta sources, while five or ten meters would apply only to exceptionally high-energy betas not typical in standard environmental health settings. Beta is more penetrating than alpha radiation but far less than gamma radiation, which helps explain why its travel in air is confined to a few meters rather than many.

3. How many steps are listed for implementing a boil water order after service resumes?

- A. 3 steps
- B. 4 steps**
- C. 5 steps
- D. 6 steps

When restoring service after a boil water order, you follow a concise, defined process that keeps public health protected while the system returns to normal. The four-step approach focuses on four essential actions: quickly informing the public and all stakeholders about the change and ongoing precautions; establishing and maintaining the official boil-water directive so it's clearly understood and followed; giving people clear instructions on how to boil water properly (and how long to boil) until the order is lifted; and monitoring the water quality with criteria to lift the order only after tests confirm safety and authorization is received. This combination ensures fast communication, consistent enforcement, practical guidance for consumers, and verification before ending the order, which is why four steps is the best match for the standard procedure. Fewer steps risk missing a critical element, while more steps might reflect extra detail not required in the core checklist.

4. Which outcome is achieved by integrated planning for pet sheltering or co-sheltering?

- A. Excluding all pets from shelters to simplify planning
- B. Providing only pet shelters separate from humans
- C. Reunification only after months

D. Ensuring pet care, separation where needed, and reunification processes

Integrated planning for pet sheltering means coordinating a single, organized approach that takes care of animals while also supporting the people who care for them. The best outcome is to provide pet care within the shelter setup, keep pets and people separated when necessary for safety or health reasons, and have a clear process to reunite pets with their owners as soon as possible. This approach helps keep families together, reduces stress for both people and animals, and makes shelter operations more efficient and safe for everyone. Excluding pets, or keeping them entirely separate without a plan, would undermine safety and practical care, while delaying reunification or ignoring the need for structured care and separation would create avoidable problems in the shelter environment.

5. What must be done after the two-week storage period for garbage stored on-site?

- A. Offsite disposal only
- B. Onsite disposal is required**
- C. Continue storage indefinitely
- D. Dispose by burning

Managing garbage in a temporary or disaster setting centers on removing waste promptly to prevent pests, odors, and disease risk around living areas. After two weeks of storing garbage on-site, the appropriate action is to dispose of it on-site. This requirement helps ensure the waste is removed from the immediate living area, reducing attractions for vectors and minimizing health hazards when transport options may be limited. Continuing to store indefinitely would raise sanitation and vector concerns, and off-site disposal or burning may not be feasible or allowed in many disaster situations. Therefore, disposing of the garbage on-site after the two-week period is the correct approach.

6. Which statement correctly describes ionization chamber measurement?

- A. It measures ionization without amplification**
- B. It measures ionization with amplification
- C. It detects energy of gamma photons
- D. It measures dose rate directly

Ionization chamber measurement hinges on the gas being ionized by radiation and then the resulting ion pairs being collected by an electric field. The signal is a current proportional to how quickly ion pairs are created, and there is no internal gas multiplication or amplification inside this type of detector. That lack of amplification is the defining feature: it registers the amount of ionization directly, rather than producing amplified pulses. Because it only measures the ionization rate, it does not directly provide the energy of individual gamma photons; energy information would require a different detector. Dose rate can be inferred from the measured ionization with calibration, but the fundamental action of the device is to measure ionization without amplification, which makes that statement the best description.

7. Which of the following describes Air Curtain Incineration?

- A. portable incinerator that is fuel intensive and doesn't kill all micros
- B. an industrial scale stationary incinerator with low energy use**
- C. a water curtain barrier to reduce emissions
- D. a method of burying waste

Air Curtain Incineration uses a high-velocity curtain of air to create a barrier around the waste being burned, which confines the combustion zone, improves mixing, and helps contain emissions. This setup is typically implemented in an industrial-scale, stationary incinerator designed to achieve efficient destruction with relatively low energy input compared to portable, fuel-intensive systems. It is not a water curtain barrier, nor simply burying waste, and it isn't a portable unit. So the best description is an industrial scale stationary incinerator with low energy use.

8. What is the first priority in solid waste disposal during a disaster?

- A. Management of waste at mass feeding operations, shelters, and hospitals**
- B. Recycling only
- C. Burning all waste on site
- D. Export to outside regions

In disaster waste management, the most urgent goal is to prevent disease and maintain sanitary conditions where waste is generated in the greatest volumes and where people are most vulnerable. Mass feeding operations, shelters, and hospitals fit that description because they produce large amounts of waste—food scraps, packaging, and potentially contaminated or medical waste—and they house crowds and medically fragile individuals. Establishing a rapid, on-site waste management system at these locations—proper containers, separation of waste streams, frequent collection, and safe transfer to approved disposal facilities—significantly reduces the risk of vectors, odors, and disease outbreaks. Recycling, while important, isn't feasible as the immediate priority because it requires effective segregation and stable conditions that aren't guaranteed in the early disaster phase. Burning waste on site can create dangerous smoke and uncontrolled fires, and exporting waste relies on damaged infrastructure and time. Focusing on managing waste at shelters, mass feeding sites, and hospitals addresses the highest public health risk first.

9. Roentgen measures what?

- A. The energy deposited in tissue
- B. Exposure to gamma or x rays in air**
- C. The total radioactivity of a source
- D. Dose equivalent in rem

Roentgen measures exposure in air caused by X-ray or gamma radiation. It quantifies the electric charge produced per unit mass of air as ionization results from radiation. This makes it an exposure measure, not a dose delivered to tissue, not the total radioactivity of a source, and not a biological effect quantity. Absorbed dose (energy deposited in tissue) is measured in rad or Gray; radioactivity of a source is measured in curies or becquerels; dose equivalent (biological effect) is measured in rem or sievert. The roentgen is an older unit tied specifically to ionization in air, with modern practice often using coulombs per kilogram for exposure and gray for absorbed dose.

10. In a radiation incident, the hot zone corresponds to exposure level of approximately how many mR/hr?

- A. 2 mR/hr
- B. 10 mR/hr**
- C. 20 mR/hr
- D. 50 mR/hr

Understanding how radiation zones are defined helps explain why a value around 10 mR/hr is used for the hot zone. The hot zone is the area with the highest radiation levels and contamination, where entry is tightly controlled and specialized protective gear and dosimetry are required. In many radiological incident training materials, the hot zone is described as having exposure rates in the tens of milliroentgens per hour. A representative approximate boundary is about 10 mR/hr, because this rate is high enough to necessitate strict protective actions and time limits, yet still representative of real incidents where responders operate with proper PPE and monitoring. Remember that dose accumulates with time: staying in a zone that reads 10 mR/hr for one hour delivers about 10 mR of dose; shorter exposures reduce dose proportionally. If the exposure rate were much lower, you'd be in a warmer or cold zone with less stringent protections; if it were much higher, you'd be deeper into a more hazardous area requiring even more protective measures.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://carehdsdisastermgmt.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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