

CFD COMPANY FIRE OFFICER (COFO) PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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. Incident Command System (ICS) is part of the NIMS Command Management component, required for local emergency response agencies to remain eligible for federal disaster assistance.**
 - A. A component of NIMS Command Management required to remain eligible for federal disaster assistance
 - B. A separate system used only by fire departments
 - C. A policy for documenting investigations
 - D. An equipment maintenance program
- 2. Fuel load refers to the total quantity of all combustible products found within a room space.**
 - A. The total weight of all materials
 - B. Total quantity of all combustible products found within a room space
 - C. The number of occupants in the space
 - D. The amount of stored fuel in the yard
- 3. Which type of power includes expert and referent power, reflecting individual effectiveness?**
 - A. Personal Power
 - B. Power
 - C. Followership
 - D. Delegating Leadership
- 4. Which statement accurately describes when a PAR should be requested?**
 - A. A PAR is used to log weather conditions.
 - B. At tactical benchmarks, such as a change from an offensive strategy to a defensive strategy.
 - C. Only after the incident has ended.
 - D. Only when all units have completed their assignments.
- 5. Which management style demonstrates a low concern for results and a high concern for other people?**
 - A. Democratic leadership style
 - B. Laissez-faire approach
 - C. Country Club Management
 - D. Authority-Compliance Management

- 6. From whom does Fire Officer I typically receive direction?**
- A. The City Manager.
 - B. The Fire Captain and Battalion Chief.
 - C. The Training Officer.
 - D. The Chief of Operations.
- 7. Post Incident Analysis refers to what type of review?**
- A. A pre-incident risk assessment
 - B. A procurement evaluation
 - C. Regular equipment maintenance checks
 - D. An after-action review or analysis conducted at the company level after emergency operations
- 8. Local government and public review of requested budget describes which step?**
- A. Local government and public review of requested budget.
 - B. Adoption of an approved budget.
 - C. Administration of approved budget.
 - D. Close out of budget year.
- 9. How do Recognition Primed Decision Making and Naturalistic Decision Making differ?**
- A. They are the same
 - B. Recognition Primed describes recognizing a plausible plan of action; Naturalistic describes decisions in natural environment
 - C. They rely only on mathematical models
 - D. They require formal SOPs only
- 10. Gordon Dupont's 'dirty dozen' refers to which of the following?**
- A. The 12 steps of risk assessment
 - B. A list of reasons humans make mistakes, including lack of communication, complacency, and fatigue
 - C. A set of safety checklists
 - D. The roles of a fire officer

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Incident Command System (ICS) is part of the NIMS Command Management component, required for local emergency response agencies to remain eligible for federal disaster assistance.

A. A component of NIMS Command Management required to remain eligible for federal disaster assistance

B. A separate system used only by fire departments

C. A policy for documenting investigations

D. An equipment maintenance program

Incident Command System is a standardized on-scene incident management approach that sits within NIMS Command Management. This alignment means that, during any incident, there's a consistent structure for command, roles, responsibilities, and information flow across all responding agencies. The reason this is the best answer is that federal disaster assistance programs require local jurisdictions to adopt NIMS components, including the ICS, to be eligible for funding and federal support. The ICS provides interoperability and scalable leadership so multiple agencies can coordinate seamlessly, regardless of the incident size or complexity. It's not limited to fire departments, nor is it a policy for investigations or an equipment maintenance program. It's a flexible framework that standardizes how incidents are managed to enable effective collaboration during emergencies.

2. Fuel load refers to the total quantity of all combustible products found within a room space.

A. The total weight of all materials

B. Total quantity of all combustible products found within a room space

C. The number of occupants in the space

D. The amount of stored fuel in the yard

Fuel load is the total quantity of all combustible materials inside a room that could feed a fire. This includes furniture, textiles, paper, plastics, wood, and other items that can burn. It does not involve the number of people or fuels stored outside the space. The amount of combustible material inside a room determines how much energy the fire can release, affecting fire growth, heat, and smoke, and it helps engineers estimate potential fire behavior and design considerations. So, the idea is about how much combustible material is present in the space, not just weight or external fuel sources.

3. Which type of power includes expert and referent power, reflecting individual effectiveness?

A. Personal Power

B. Power

C. Followership

D. Delegating Leadership

Personal power is influence that comes from who you are and what you know. It includes expert power, from your knowledge, skills, and demonstrated competence, and referent power, from the respect, trust, and admiration you earn from others. These sources of influence come from the individual and their behavior, not from a formal position, and they reflect how effective you are at guiding others through credibility and relational strength. Expert power makes people value your judgment because you've shown you can solve problems or provide reliable expertise. Referent power makes others want to follow you because they identify with you or admire you. Together, they describe how a person can influence others based on personal credibility and relationships, rather than authority. The other options miss this essence: a generic notion of power is too broad to specify these personal sources; followership focuses on how people respond to leaders rather than where influence comes from; delegating leadership refers to a leadership approach, not to a type of power tied to individual effectiveness.

4. Which statement accurately describes when a PAR should be requested?

A. A PAR is used to log weather conditions.

B. At tactical benchmarks, such as a change from an offensive strategy to a defensive strategy.

C. Only after the incident has ended.

D. Only when all units have completed their assignments.

A PAR is a quick check of where every person is and what they're doing on the scene, used to keep the incident commander informed and everyone safe during operations. It's specifically called for at times when the tactical approach is about to change, so the IC has an up-to-date snapshot of who is inside, where they're located, and whether anyone is in trouble. That's why the statement about using a PAR at tactical benchmarks, such as switching from an offensive to a defensive strategy, is the best fit. When the plan shifts, crews' assignments and locations can change rapidly, and a PAR ensures no one is left unaccounted for as the new plan is put in place. Weather logging isn't what a PAR tracks—it's about people, not conditions. And PARs aren't reserved only for after the incident ends or only when everyone has finished their work; they're used during the incident, especially when major tactical changes occur or when units rotate or reassign.

5. Which management style demonstrates a low concern for results and a high concern for other people?

- A. Democratic leadership style
- B. Laissez-faire approach
- C. Country Club Management**
- D. Authority-Compliance Management

Country Club Management emphasizes a high concern for people and a low concern for results. In this approach, the manager focuses on creating a warm, harmonious environment, prioritizing relationships, morale, and satisfaction over pushing for high production or strict targets. The trade-off is that while employees feel supported and valued, productivity or meeting tight deadlines may suffer if performance demands aren't reinforced by other systems. This contrasts with styles that push for results or balance both people and production, making Country Club Management the option that best fits a low focus on outcomes and a high focus on people.

6. From whom does Fire Officer I typically receive direction?

- A. The City Manager.
- B. The Fire Captain and Battalion Chief.**
- C. The Training Officer.
- D. The Chief of Operations.

Direction for a Fire Officer I comes through the chain of command you work under. In daily operations, the Captain acts as the Company Officer and directly directs the crew at the scene, assigning tasks and making tactical decisions for the company. The Battalion Chief sits one level up and oversees the battalion, providing broader guidance, policy, and coordination across multiple companies. Together, they handle the immediate instructions and the bigger-scale direction you'll need on the job. Policies and city-wide decisions come from higher levels like the City Manager, who sets overall city policy rather than field instructions. The Training Officer focuses on developing and delivering training, not directing day-to-day operations. The Chief of Operations is a senior executive level whose directives typically route through the chain of command rather than being given directly to a Fire Officer I for routine tasks.

7. Post Incident Analysis refers to what type of review?

- A. A pre-incident risk assessment
- B. A procurement evaluation
- C. Regular equipment maintenance checks
- D. An after-action review or analysis conducted at the company level after emergency operations**

Post-incident analysis is an after-action review of an emergency response. It looks at what happened, how well actions aligned with objectives, what worked well, what didn't, and what needs to change. Conducted at the company level after the incident, it aims to capture lessons learned and drive improvements across the organization—updating training, procedures, and policies to better handle future events. This distinguishes it from a pre-incident risk assessment (which is about identifying hazards before an incident), a procurement evaluation (focused on purchasing and supplier performance), or routine equipment maintenance checks (ongoing upkeep rather than evaluating the response after the fact).

8. Local government and public review of requested budget describes which step?

- A. Local government and public review of requested budget.**
- B. Adoption of an approved budget.
- C. Administration of approved budget.
- D. Close out of budget year.

This step involves presenting the proposed budget to the local government and the public for review and input before it is adopted. It's the public-facing phase where officials and residents can examine revenues, expenditures, and priorities, and suggest changes that can shape the final plan. Because the review happens prior to formal approval, it naturally precedes adoption, which is the actual approval of the budget. After adoption, the focus shifts to administering the approved amounts, and later the year's accounts are closed out.

9. How do Recognition Primed Decision Making and Naturalistic Decision Making differ?

- A. They are the same
- B. Recognition Primed describes recognizing a plausible plan of action; Naturalistic describes decisions in natural environment**
- C. They rely only on mathematical models
- D. They require formal SOPs only

Recognition Primed Decision Making focuses on how experienced people rapidly identify a familiar situation and select a plausible course of action, often by mentally simulating how it would unfold and sticking with the first viable plan. Naturalistic Decision Making, on the other hand, looks at how decisions actually unfold in real-world, complex environments—under time pressure, uncertainty, and changing conditions—emphasizing sensemaking, heuristics, improvisation, and teamwork. So describing RPD as recognizing a plausible action plan and NDM as decisions made in natural environments captures the distinct emphasis of each approach, which is why that option is the best fit. Other statements don't fit because they imply the two approaches are identical, rely solely on mathematical models, or depend only on formal SOPs, none of which describe how these approaches actually operate in real practice.

10. Gordon Dupont's 'dirty dozen' refers to which of the following?

- A. The 12 steps of risk assessment
- B. A list of reasons humans make mistakes, including lack of communication, complacency, and fatigue**
- C. A set of safety checklists
- D. The roles of a fire officer

This item tests understanding of human factors that lead to errors in safety-critical work. Gordon Dupont's Dirty Dozen is a well-known list of twelve human-error precursors that can affect performance, highlighting that many incidents come from how people think, communicate, and act under pressure. The fact that the choice mentions lack of communication, complacency, and fatigue aligns with these common factors, showing that the concept is about why people make mistakes rather than about procedures or roles. It's not describing a set of risk-assessment steps, safety checklists, or the formal roles of a fire officer, which is why those other options don't fit.

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://cfdcofo.examzify.com>

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

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