

# Collin College Fire Academy Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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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. What are the two main ventilation types used in firefighting?**
  - A. Vertical (top) ventilation and horizontal ventilation**
  - B. Mechanical ventilation and natural ventilation**
  - C. Forward ventilation and backward ventilation**
  - D. Internal ventilation and external ventilation**
  
- 2. Which safety feature is commonly integrated with SCBA to help locate a firefighter in distress?**
  - A. PASS device.**
  - B. Low battery LED.**
  - C. Thermal imaging.**
  - D. Smoke detector.**
  
- 3. According to the ERG, a large spill is defined as how many gallons or greater?**
  - A. 56 gallons or greater**
  - B. 10 gallons or greater**
  - C. 100 gallons or greater**
  - D. 1 gallon or greater**
  
- 4. Which color tag represents the highest priority for treatment in triage tagging?**
  - A. Yellow tag denotes delayed injuries requiring attention**
  - B. Green tag denotes minor injuries**
  - C. Red tag denotes immediate life-threatening injuries requiring urgent care**
  - D. Black tag denotes deceased or non-salvageable**
  
- 5. Which type of collapse floor pattern occurs when both sides of the floor or ceiling collapse around a load-bearing wall?**
  - A. Frame**
  - B. Lean-To Collapse**
  - C. V-Shape**
  - D. Cantilever Collapse**

- 6. Define flashover.**
- A. A sudden collapse of a structure due to failure of a beam.**
  - B. The rapid transition to near-simultaneous ignition of all combustibles in a room due to extreme heat.**
  - C. A temporary cooling of hot gases by ventilation.**
  - D. A slow burn of contents.**
- 7. In fire emergencies, what does the acronym RACE stand for?**
- A. Rescue, Alarm, Contain, Extinguish**
  - B. Rescue, Alert, Contain, Extinguish**
  - C. Rescue, Alarm, Check, Extinguish**
  - D. Rescue, Alarm, Contain, Evacuate**
- 8. If 40 feet of a 50 foot extension ladder is used, how far away should the butt of the ladder be placed from the building?**
- A. 10 feet**
  - B. 5 feet**
  - C. 15 feet**
  - D. 20 feet**
- 9. When ventilating a window, where should the ladder be placed?**
- A. With the tip of the ladder even with the top of the window**
  - B. With the base of the ladder at the window sill**
  - C. At an angle with the window frame**
  - D. The ladder should be away from the window**
- 10. In the context of containment, which element may require containment during vapor dispersion?**
- A. Runoff**
  - B. Vapor plume**
  - C. Water runoff**
  - D. Wind direction**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What are the two main ventilation types used in firefighting?**

- A. Vertical (top) ventilation and horizontal ventilation**
- B. Mechanical ventilation and natural ventilation**
- C. Forward ventilation and backward ventilation**
- D. Internal ventilation and external ventilation**

The main concept is how firefighters remove heat and smoke from a burning structure by opening up the building in opposite directions to create a controlled airflow. The two primary approaches are vertical (top) ventilation and horizontal ventilation. Vertical ventilation uses a hole cut in the roof so hot gases, heat, and smoke escape upward. This reduces heat buildup inside, improves visibility, and makes conditions safer for interior crews. It also helps pull fire gases toward the opening as they rise, creating a path for the smoke to exit the structure. Horizontal ventilation involves opening openings on the same level or along the sides of the building, such as doors or windows, to establish a flow of fresh air into the structure while smoke exits through the openings. This method is useful when roof access isn't safe or feasible, or when you want to quickly establish a direction of airflow from the fire toward exterior openings. Other descriptions like mechanical versus natural or moving air in different directions exist, but the two most widely taught categories focus on where the ventilation openings are placed and how they affect the air flow: top/vertical and side/ horizontal.

**2. Which safety feature is commonly integrated with SCBA to help locate a firefighter in distress?**

- A. PASS device.**
- B. Low battery LED.**
- C. Thermal imaging.**
- D. Smoke detector.**

A safety signaling system built into the SCBA is designed to help others locate a firefighter who may be in distress. This is the Personal Alert Safety System, which automatically emits a loud alarm (and sometimes a strobe) if the wearer stops moving for a set period or can be manually activated. The audible alert travels through smoke and debris and stays with the firefighter, making it easier for teammates to pinpoint the location for a rapid rescue. Other options aren't integrated with the SCBA for locating a distressed wearer: a low battery LED just shows power status; a thermal imaging camera is a separate tool used to see heat sources, not to signal the wearer's location; and a smoke detector is for detecting smoke in a space, not for locating individuals.

**3. According to the ERG, a large spill is defined as how many gallons or greater?**

- A. 56 gallons or greater**
- B. 10 gallons or greater**
- C. 100 gallons or greater**
- D. 1 gallon or greater**

Spill size classification in the ERG is used to judge response needs. A large spill is defined as 56 gallons or more, with anything up to 55 gallons considered a small spill. This threshold aligns with standard container sizes (55-gallon drums) and gives responders a clear, quick rule to decide when to escalate resources and protective actions. While larger volumes like 100 gallons are certainly large, the official cutoff starts at 56 gallons.

**4. Which color tag represents the highest priority for treatment in triage tagging?**

- A. Yellow tag denotes delayed injuries requiring attention**
- B. Green tag denotes minor injuries**
- C. Red tag denotes immediate life-threatening injuries requiring urgent care**
- D. Black tag denotes deceased or non-salvageable**

Red is the highest priority tag because it marks injuries that are life-threatening but still salvageable with immediate care. In triage, the goal is to allocate limited resources to those who will benefit most if treated right away, so red-tagged patients receive urgent interventions to prevent imminent death (such as securing the airway, controlling major bleeding, or stabilizing circulation). The other colors indicate less urgent needs: yellow means injuries that are serious but not immediately life-threatening, green for minor injuries, and black for deceased or non-salvageable cases.

**5. Which type of collapse floor pattern occurs when both sides of the floor or ceiling collapse around a load-bearing wall?**

- A. Frame**
- B. Lean-To Collapse**
- C. V-Shape**
- D. Cantilever Collapse**

Frame collapse happens when a load-bearing wall stays standing while the floor or ceiling on both sides collapses. The wall acts as the central vertical element, so you end up with a frame-like appearance around that wall. This matches the scenario where debris falls away on both sides of the wall, rather than sinking on just one side or failing in a single direction. Lean-to collapse would involve only one side falling, cantilever collapse involves the floor giving way away from the wall in one direction, and a V-shape pattern forms a V with debris from two sides moving toward the center rather than creating a framed opening around the wall. Understanding this helps you anticipate voids and plan safe entry and stabilization around the intact load-bearing element.

## 6. Define flashover.

- A. A sudden collapse of a structure due to failure of a beam.
- B. The rapid transition to near-simultaneous ignition of all combustibles in a room due to extreme heat.**
- C. A temporary cooling of hot gases by ventilation.
- D. A slow burn of contents.

Flashover is the rapid transition where the heat in a room becomes high enough that nearly all combustibles ignite almost simultaneously. This happens when radiant heat from the flames and the hot, rising gases raise the surfaces and contents to their ignition temperatures, so within seconds everything that can burn ignites. It marks a dramatic shift from a localized fire to a fully developed, room-ignited environment, with temperatures typically in the hundreds of Celsius (roughly 500-600°C or about 900-1100°F). This event creates extremely high heat flux and a sudden, dangerous spread of fire, drastically increasing danger to anyone inside or nearby. It's different from a cooling or ventilation-driven effect, and from a gradual burn; flashover is the explosive ignition of most contents in a space.

## 7. In fire emergencies, what does the acronym RACE stand for?

- A. Rescue, Alarm, Contain, Extinguish**
- B. Rescue, Alert, Contain, Extinguish
- C. Rescue, Alarm, Check, Extinguish
- D. Rescue, Alarm, Contain, Evacuate

RACE represents the order of actions you take in a fire to protect people first and limit the spread of the fire. Start by rescuing anyone in immediate danger if it can be done safely. The priority is to remove lives from harm before addressing the fire itself. Next, you sound the building's alarm to alert others and summon help. This step ensures occupants are aware and emergency responders are alerted as quickly as possible. Then you work to contain the fire by confining it and smoke, typically by closing doors and keeping the fire from spreading to other areas. Containing the fire buys time for evacuation and gives responders a better chance to manage the situation. Finally, extinguish the fire if you have a suitable extinguisher and it's safe to do so. If the fire is beyond your training or dangerous, leave extinguishing to the professionals and prioritize orderly evacuation under established procedures. So, the sequence is Rescue, Alarm, Contain, Extinguish. Other options shift or replace one of these actions (such as using Alert instead of Alarm, Check instead of Contain, or Evacuate instead of Extinguish), which changes the intended order and emphasis of steps in this protocol.

**8. If 40 feet of a 50 foot extension ladder is used, how far away should the butt of the ladder be placed from the building?**

- A. 10 feet**
- B. 5 feet**
- C. 15 feet**
- D. 20 feet**

The main idea here is leaning ladders at the proper angle for stability. For extension ladders, a safe rule of thumb is to place the base about one-quarter of the ladder's working length away from the wall, which gives a ladder angle of roughly 75 degrees. If the ladder is extended to 40 feet, the base should be about  $40 \div 4 = 10$  feet from the building. This position lets you reach high enough while keeping the ladder stable and less prone to tipping or slipping. If you set the base much closer (like 5 feet), the angle becomes too steep (nearly vertical), increasing tipping risk; if you move it farther out (like 15 or 20 feet), the angle becomes too shallow and stability or reach can be compromised. So, about 10 feet away is the correct, safe placement.

**9. When ventilating a window, where should the ladder be placed?**

- A. With the tip of the ladder even with the top of the window**
- B. With the base of the ladder at the window sill**
- C. At an angle with the window frame**
- D. The ladder should be away from the window**

Position the ladder so that the tip is level with the top edge of the window. This setup provides a safe, workable height and a favorable angle, letting you stand at the window with a solid stance and reach inside or outside to ventilate without overreaching. It also helps you maintain three points of contact and quick retreat if needed. Placing the base at the window sill would put you too close to the wall and create an awkward, shallow angle that's easy to lose footing. Leaning the ladder at an angle along the window frame isn't the proper position for a stable, controllable venting operation. Placing the ladder away from the window eliminates access entirely and prevents effective ventilation.

**10. In the context of containment, which element may require containment during vapor dispersion?**

- A. Runoff**
- B. Vapor plume**
- C. Water runoff**
- D. Wind direction**

During containment planning for hazardous-material releases, you must consider all pathways contaminants can take. Vapors spread through the air, but liquids associated with the release can still move as runoff. If condensation, precipitation, or spills create contaminated liquid, it can flow across surfaces and toward drains, soils, or waterways. That runoff becomes a secondary exposure route and environmental hazard, so it needs to be contained with barriers, berms, capture basins, and proper drainage control. While the vapor plume and wind direction influence where the gas travels, containment specifically addresses preventing the liquid from migrating. Hence, runoff may require containment during vapor dispersion.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

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

**<https://collincollegefireacademy.examzify.com>**

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

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