

# Cooperative Personnel Services Firefighter (CPS) Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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

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# Table of Contents

<b>Copyright</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Use This Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Questions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Answers</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>16</b>

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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. Which materials are categorized in dust class 1 or 2?**

- A. Metals and plastics**
- B. Flour, grain, and chemicals**
- C. Wood and organic materials**
- D. Textiles and paper products**

**2. Which of the following is NOT a component of the fire triangle?**

- A. Oxygen**
- B. Fuel**
- C. Water**
- D. Heat**

**3. Smoldering fire, layer fire, and flash fire are types of:**

- A. Electrical fires**
- B. Marine fires**
- C. Dust fires**
- D. Gas fires**

**4. What does a risk strategy typically include?**

- A. Only emergency response plans**
- B. Methods for risk identification and analysis**
- C. Only financial impact assessments**
- D. Minimum safety standards**

**5. What are the three types of explosions associated with combustible dust?**

- A. Primary, Secondary, Tertiary**
- B. Primary, Propagating, Secondary**
- C. Initial, Propagating, Final**
- D. Single, Double, Triple**

**6. What is meant by the term "fire suppression"?**

- A. The act of controlling fire alarms**
- B. The act of extinguishing or controlling a fire**
- C. The process of reporting fire incidents**
- D. The technique of escaping a fire**

**7. Which factor does not affect the combustion of a material?**

- A. Temperature**
- B. Presence of oxygen**
- C. Type of fuel**
- D. Color of fuel**

**8. If the KST value is between 0 and 200, what dust class is it in?**

- A. Dust class 0**
- B. Dust class 1**
- C. Dust class 2**
- D. Dust class 3**

**9. What does the acronym PASS stand for in relation to fire extinguishers?**

- A. Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep**
- B. Press, Activate, Squeeze, Spray**
- C. Pick, Aim, Squeeze, Stop**
- D. Pull, Align, Squeeze, Spray**

**10. What is the primary purpose of fire alarms?**

- A. To provide lighting during emergencies**
- B. To detect fires and alert occupants and emergency responders**
- C. To notify the fire department automatically**
- D. To reduce the spread of smoke**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which materials are categorized in dust class 1 or 2?**

- A. Metals and plastics**
- B. Flour, grain, and chemicals**
- C. Wood and organic materials**
- D. Textiles and paper products**

The classification of materials into dust classes allows for a better understanding of their properties, especially in terms of explosiveness and health hazards when dispersed in the air. Dust class 1 and 2 typically include materials that can generate combustible dust hazards. Flour, grain, and chemicals fall into this category because they can produce fine particulate matter that, when suspended in air, poses a significant risk of explosion or health issues. These materials tend to create a dense cloud of dust that can ignite under the right conditions, leading to potentially dangerous situations in industrial or storage settings. This classification is based on the potential of these dusts to combust when exposed to an ignition source. The other materials mentioned, such as metals, plastics, wood, organic materials, textiles, and paper products, have different properties and may not necessarily fall under these specific dust classifications. Each material's behavior regarding dust formation and combustion varies considerably, making it imperative to identify the correct risk categories for safety regulations and handling practices.

**2. Which of the following is NOT a component of the fire triangle?**

- A. Oxygen**
- B. Fuel**
- C. Water**
- D. Heat**

The components of the fire triangle are essential elements required for combustion to occur. The triangle consists of oxygen, fuel, and heat. Each of these components plays a critical role in the fire process: 1. Oxygen supports combustion and is a necessary element for fire to ignite and sustain. 2. Fuel refers to any combustible material that can burn, such as wood, paper, or gasoline. 3. Heat is the energy that raises the material to its ignition temperature, enabling the chemical reaction of combustion to take place. Water, while commonly associated with fire suppression as it is used to extinguish flames, is not a component of the fire triangle. Instead, water acts as a cooling agent that reduces heat and can displace oxygen in certain situations, ultimately helping to break one of the critical links necessary for fire to continue burning. Thus, identifying water as not part of the fire triangle correctly distinguishes it from the essential elements needed to sustain a fire.

### 3. Smoldering fire, layer fire, and flash fire are types of:

- A. Electrical fires
- B. Marine fires
- C. Dust fires**
- D. Gas fires

Smoldering fire, layer fire, and flash fire are indeed types of dust fires. A smoldering fire typically occurs when a material burns slowly without flames, often associated with solid materials that produce particulate matter. Layer fires refer to a scenario where flammable dust accumulates in layers, and when these layers are disturbed, they can ignite and create a more significant fire hazard. Flash fires, on the other hand, happen when there is a rapid combustion of dust particles suspended in the air, creating a very quick and intense flame. Understanding these categories is critical for firefighters, as each type of fire can behave differently and require specific suppression techniques. Dust fires, in particular, pose unique challenges due to the fine particles that can easily become airborne and ignite, leading to a rapid spread of fire. Such knowledge is essential for effective risk assessment and the implementation of appropriate safety measures in environments where flammable dust is present.

### 4. What does a risk strategy typically include?

- A. Only emergency response plans
- B. Methods for risk identification and analysis**
- C. Only financial impact assessments
- D. Minimum safety standards

A risk strategy is a comprehensive approach that encompasses various methods to identify, analyze, and mitigate potential risks. The selection of "Methods for risk identification and analysis" as the correct answer reflects the critical components involved in effective risk management. This includes systematic processes for recognizing potential hazards, evaluating the likelihood of their occurrence, and determining the severity of their impact. By employing these methods, organizations can proactively manage risks before they escalate into more significant problems. The other options presented represent narrower focuses that do not capture the full scope of a risk strategy. Emergency response plans are essential, but they are only part of the overall risk strategy. Similarly, financial impact assessments and minimum safety standards are important, but they do not encompass the broader methods needed for comprehensive risk identification and analysis. Thus, the inclusion of these methods is vital for a thorough and effective risk management approach.

**5. What are the three types of explosions associated with combustible dust?**

- A. Primary, Secondary, Tertiary**
- B. Primary, Propagating, Secondary**
- C. Initial, Propagating, Final**
- D. Single, Double, Triple**

The correct answer identifies the three types of explosions associated with combustible dust as primary, propagating, and secondary. In the context of combustible dust, a primary explosion occurs when an initial ignition causes a significant burst or shockwave. This explosion can create conditions favorable for further explosions. The propagating explosion refers to the chain reaction that occurs when the fire or explosion spreads to additional sources of combustible dust, causing further explosions in adjacent areas. The secondary explosion is particularly critical because it typically involves a much larger and more destructive event following the initial primary explosion. Secondary explosions can result from the dispersal of dust clouds created by the primary explosion, leading to widespread damage and increased risk to both personnel and equipment. This understanding of explosive sequences is essential for safety measures and protocols in environments where combustible dust is present, highlighting the importance of hazard identification and risk assessment.

**6. What is meant by the term "fire suppression"?**

- A. The act of controlling fire alarms**
- B. The act of extinguishing or controlling a fire**
- C. The process of reporting fire incidents**
- D. The technique of escaping a fire**

The term "fire suppression" refers specifically to the act of extinguishing or controlling a fire. This encompasses a variety of tactics and methods used by firefighters to manage and reduce the spread of flames, safely extinguish the fire, and protect life and property. Fire suppression involves understanding fire dynamics, employing appropriate firefighting techniques, and utilizing various equipment and tools, such as hoses, fire extinguishers, and aerial devices, to effectively combat fires and minimize damage. Other options, while related to fire safety and management, do not accurately reflect the primary action indicated by "fire suppression." For instance, controlling fire alarms is a different aspect of fire safety, as is reporting fire incidents, which focuses on communication rather than direct action against a fire. Similarly, escaping a fire is concerned with personal safety and evacuation, not with the act of extinguishing it. Thus, the correct understanding of fire suppression is centered around the active process of putting out fires.

**7. Which factor does not affect the combustion of a material?**

- A. Temperature**
- B. Presence of oxygen**
- C. Type of fuel**
- D. Color of fuel**

The combustion of a material is influenced by several key factors, including temperature, the presence of oxygen, and the type of fuel involved in the reaction. Temperature plays a crucial role because it determines the energy level of the particles. Higher temperatures can increase the reaction rate and lead to combustion more readily. The presence of oxygen is vital as combustion is an oxidation reaction, requiring an oxidizer to sustain the process. The type of fuel matters since different fuels burn at different rates and produce varying amounts of heat and byproducts. The color of the fuel does not impact combustion in a significant way. While color can provide information related to the chemical structure or the presence of certain compounds, it does not affect the fundamental chemical processes that occur during combustion. Therefore, color is not a factor that influences combustion directly.

**8. If the KST value is between 0 and 200, what dust class is it in?**

- A. Dust class 0**
- B. Dust class 1**
- C. Dust class 2**
- D. Dust class 3**

The KST value, which measures the explosibility of dust, plays a crucial role in classifying dust hazards. When the KST value falls between 0 and 200, it indicates that the dust poses a relatively lower explosibility risk compared to higher ranges. In this context, dust class 1 is defined as having a KST value within this specific range, suggesting it has a certain level of explosibility but is not as extreme as the classifications for higher KST values. Understanding these classifications is vital for fire safety and regulation compliance in environments where dust accumulation could lead to hazardous situations.

## 9. What does the acronym PASS stand for in relation to fire extinguishers?

- A. Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep**
- B. Press, Activate, Squeeze, Spray**
- C. Pick, Aim, Squeeze, Stop**
- D. Pull, Align, Squeeze, Spray**

The acronym PASS stands for Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep, which is a critical procedure for effectively using a fire extinguisher. Understanding each component is essential for ensuring that the user can operate the extinguisher safely and efficiently during a fire emergency. - **Pull** refers to pulling the safety pin from the extinguisher's handle. This step is crucial as it unlocks the operating mechanism and allows for the extinguisher to be activated. - **Aim** means to point the nozzle or hose at the base of the fire, where the flames are located. Aiming at the base is essential for effectively extinguishing the source of the fire rather than just spraying foam or liquid above the flames, which might not be effective. - **Squeeze** involves squeezing the handle or lever to discharge the extinguishing agent. This action releases the pressure and allows the chemical agent to flow out and put out the fire. - **Sweep** means to sweep the nozzle from side to side at the base of the fire while continuing to squeeze the handle. This motion helps cover the area of the fire with the extinguishing agent, ensuring that it can effectively suppress the flames. Using this method increases the chances of successfully extinguishing a fire. The

## 10. What is the primary purpose of fire alarms?

- A. To provide lighting during emergencies**
- B. To detect fires and alert occupants and emergency responders**
- C. To notify the fire department automatically**
- D. To reduce the spread of smoke**

The primary purpose of fire alarms is to detect fires and alert both occupants of a building and emergency responders. This detection is crucial because it allows individuals to evacuate the premises safely and promptly, reducing the risk of injury or loss of life. Fire alarms can sense smoke, heat, or flames, and once activated, they emit an audible or visual alert that informs people to take immediate action. While notifying the fire department automatically can be a function of certain advanced fire alarm systems, this is not the broad primary purpose of fire alarms, as they mainly focus on detection and alerting. Additionally, the provision of lighting during emergencies, though important in mitigating dangers during an evacuation, is not a function attributed directly to fire alarms. Reducing the spread of smoke is a function of other fire protection systems, such as smoke barriers or ventilation control, and is not the primary role of alarms. Thus, the emphasis on detection and alerting is what underscores the vital role fire alarms play in fire safety protocols.

# 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://cps.examzify.com>**

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

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