

El Paso Fire Department (EPFD) Volume 3 Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Table of Contents

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

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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 is the purpose of conducting operations in crews of two or more?**
 - A. To ensure safety and maintain communication throughout the operation.**
 - B. To speed up operations by doubling manpower regardless of safety.**
 - C. To avoid accountability.**
 - D. To minimize radio traffic.**

- 2. In the context of incident management, an imminent hazard demands:**
 - A. Immediate action to protect people or property.**
 - B. A thorough risk assessment before any action.**
 - C. Delegation of tasks to a later shift.**
 - D. No action until further instructions.**

- 3. Where should crews exit when a Withdraw Order is given?**
 - A. From the interior of a structure or a portion of it.**
 - B. Directly to the exterior ground outside the building's footprint.**
 - C. To the roof.**
 - D. To a nearby stairwell only.**

- 4. The purpose of requesting Multiple Alarms is to**
 - A. Mobilize additional resources for larger or more complex incidents.**
 - B. Delay response to assess situation.**
 - C. Limit resources to a single unit.**
 - D. Notify only the incident commander.**

- 5. What are the general considerations for landing zones (LZ) in emergency response?**
 - A. Safety, accessibility, and suitability for helicopter operations.**
 - B. Proximity to shopping centers.**
 - C. Noise level only.**
 - D. Weather-only factors.**

- 6. Which form is used to track disposal of unused or expired controlled substances?**
- A. DPFD-1120**
 - B. DPFD 1117**
 - C. DPFD-1100**
 - D. DPFD-1130**
- 7. ComSAR stands for which term?**
- A. Community Search and Rescue**
 - B. Communications and Safety Response**
 - C. Comprehensive Search and Rescue**
 - D. Civilian Search and Rescue**
- 8. What should be considered after search and rescue is completed without progress toward fire control?**
- A. Withdrawal of crews should be considered.**
 - B. Increase resources to search more.**
 - C. Begin interior attack.**
 - D. Continue interior search.**
- 9. Mandatory ARFF Training is defined as what?**
- A. Required training for Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting personnel.**
 - B. Optional training for all airport staff.**
 - C. Training for ground vehicles.**
 - D. Training for food service staff.**
- 10. The action required for helmet I.D. tags emphasizes alignment with which aspect?**
- A. Current assignments**
 - B. Training completion dates**
 - C. Department badges only**
 - D. Vehicle assignments**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the purpose of conducting operations in crews of two or more?

A. To ensure safety and maintain communication throughout the operation.

B. To speed up operations by doubling manpower regardless of safety.

C. To avoid accountability.

D. To minimize radio traffic.

Working in crews of two or more centers on safety and clear communication throughout the operation. A partner provides continuous monitoring of each other's status, air supply, and exits, and they share the workload so tasks are performed with backup and redundancy. This buddy system helps catch and correct mistakes, prevents anyone from becoming isolated, and makes it easier to call for help or initiate a rescue if conditions deteriorate. It also enhances accountability—team members verify actions, communicate clearly, and maintain a shared understanding of the scene as conditions change. While more hands can aid progress, the priority is preventing harm and keeping everyone informed and protected, not simply increasing speed. The approach relies on deliberate, two-way communication and mutual supervision, rather than aiming to reduce radio traffic or to sidestep responsibility.

2. In the context of incident management, an imminent hazard demands:

A. Immediate action to protect people or property.

B. A thorough risk assessment before any action.

C. Delegation of tasks to a later shift.

D. No action until further instructions.

When an imminent hazard is present, you act immediately to protect people or property. An imminent hazard is a condition that could cause harm in the very near term, so delaying action for analysis or waiting for orders creates a window for the situation to worsen. In incident management, the priority is rapid, decisive action to remove or reduce the danger, such as isolating the hazard, evacuating affected areas, or taking quick protective measures. After immediate steps are taken, a more thorough assessment and planning can follow, but the safety of responders and the public comes first. Delaying action for a full risk assessment, waiting for a later shift, or pausing for further instructions would not safeguard lives or critical assets in this moment.

3. Where should crews exit when a Withdraw Order is given?

- A. From the interior of a structure or a portion of it.**
- B. Directly to the exterior ground outside the building's footprint.**
- C. To the roof.**
- D. To a nearby stairwell only.**

Withdraw orders are about getting crews out of the dangerous interior spaces. When this directive is given, the priority is to move personnel who are inside the structure or a portion of it to safety by exiting the interior area. This focuses on clearing the interior exposures and getting teams out through their usual interior-to-exterior egress paths so they are no longer in the fire or hazardous environment inside. Exiting directly to the exterior ground outside the building's footprint, going to the roof, or restricting exit to a nearby stairwell alone doesn't capture that interior-to-outside withdrawal intent. Those options either place crews at higher-risk locations (roof) or constrain their movement (stairwell only) or describe a general exterior exit without tying it to leaving the interior space.

4. The purpose of requesting Multiple Alarms is to

- A. Mobilize additional resources for larger or more complex incidents.**
- B. Delay response to assess situation.**
- C. Limit resources to a single unit.**
- D. Notify only the incident commander.**

When a fire or incident grows beyond what one unit can handle, escalating to multiple alarms brings in more manpower, equipment, and support to the scene. This rapid increase in resources ensures there are enough engines, ladder companies, rescues, and command staff to perform critical tasks safely—such as finding and rescuing occupants, establishing water supply, performing ventilation, protecting exposures, and managing rehab and scene safety. It also makes it possible to bring in mutual aid if needed, smoothing how the incident is staffed as it evolves. Delaying response to assess the situation isn't the purpose of raising alarms, nor is limiting resources to a single unit. And while the incident commander is informed, alarms are not about notifying only the IC; they are about mobilizing a broad, capable response to handle larger, more complex incidents.

5. What are the general considerations for landing zones (LZ) in emergency response?

- A. Safety, accessibility, and suitability for helicopter operations.**
- B. Proximity to shopping centers.**
- C. Noise level only.**
- D. Weather-only factors.**

Landing zones are planned around safety, accessibility, and suitability for helicopter operations. Safety means removing hazards in and around the area, ensuring a flat, stable surface, and keeping bystanders, vehicles, and equipment well clear of the rotor arc and approach/departure paths. Accessibility means the LZ can be reached quickly by responding units, with a clear route for the crew to load or unload the patient without delaying other actions. Suitability for helicopter operations covers having enough space for the aircraft's footprint and rotor wash, a level or appropriately sloped surface, and conditions that allow a safe approach and departure, including considerations like wind direction and, if needed, lighting for night operations. In practice, you're looking for a clear, open area that is obstacle-free, has a firm surface, manageable slopes, and a plan to guide the helicopter in while keeping people and obstacles out of the danger zone. Weather matters, but it's only one piece; you need the right combination of safety, access, and aircraft-appropriate conditions to execute a safe landing. Proximity to crowds or focusing on noise or weather alone would not address all of these essential factors.

6. Which form is used to track disposal of unused or expired controlled substances?

- A. DPFD-1120**
- B. DPFD 1117**
- C. DPFD-1100**
- D. DPFD-1130**

Tracking the disposal of unused or expired controlled substances requires a formal record to maintain accountability and ensure regulatory compliance. The DPFD-1120 is the designated disposal record; it captures what is being disposed, the amount, how it will be disposed, and who authorized and witnessed the disposal, along with the date. This creates an auditable trail that proves the substances were handled properly and not redirected or discarded without documentation. The other forms serve different department purposes and do not function as the official disposal log, so they aren't used to track disposal.

7. ComSAR stands for which term?

- A. Community Search and Rescue**
- B. Communications and Safety Response**
- C. Comprehensive Search and Rescue**
- D. Civilian Search and Rescue**

ComSAR refers to organizing local volunteers and resources to conduct a search for a missing person and support professional responders. The emphasis is on community involvement—mobilizing people who are nearby, trained in basic search techniques, and able to operate under incident command to quickly extend the reach of the response. That is why Community Search and Rescue is the standard expansion. The other options don't reflect the common terminology: they describe different concepts or use terms that aren't the recognized expansion of the acronym.

8. What should be considered after search and rescue is completed without progress toward fire control?

- A. Withdrawal of crews should be considered.**
- B. Increase resources to search more.**
- C. Begin interior attack.**
- D. Continue interior search.**

When search and rescue is finished but there's no progress toward gaining fire control, the priority shifts from interior operations to safety and reassessment. With no advancing fire control, keeping crews inside risks entrapment and wasted effort, so withdrawing interior crews is the prudent move. This frees resources to protect exposures, strengthen the defensive plan, and reallocate teams as needed. Increasing resources to search more isn't warranted because search and rescue has been completed. Beginning or continuing interior attack isn't appropriate if there's no progress toward control, and would expose crews to ongoing hazards without improving the situation.

9. Mandatory ARFF Training is defined as what?

- A. Required training for Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting personnel.**
- B. Optional training for all airport staff.**
- C. Training for ground vehicles.**
- D. Training for food service staff.**

Mandatory ARFF training means the training required by regulation for people who perform Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting duties. This isn't about general airport staff or optional courses; it's specifically for the responders who will arrive at an aircraft emergency and carry out rescue operations, fire suppression, incident safety, and support at the scene. The training ensures they know how aircraft systems, fuel hazards, and airport layouts affect response, how to use ARFF equipment, and how to communicate and operate safely under the incident command structure. It's defined as mandatory because the effectiveness and safety of the response depend on these responders being properly qualified and current.

10. The action required for helmet I.D. tags emphasizes alignment with which aspect?

- A. Current assignments**
- B. Training completion dates**
- C. Department badges only**
- D. Vehicle assignments**

Helmet ID tags are meant to identify who you are and what crew or assignment you're currently serving with on the fire ground. Focusing the tag on current assignments keeps the information accurate as crews move or are reassigned, which supports clear accountability and quick, correct direction from incident command. Training completion dates aren't needed on the helmet tag because they're tracked in training records, not on-scene identification, and department badges don't convey the specific crew role or unit. Vehicle assignments are separate from the person's immediate role on scene. So, keeping the tag aligned with the current assignment ensures the wearer can be identified correctly at any given moment.

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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://epfdvol3.examzify.com>

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

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