FDNY Probationary Firefighter School Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Questions

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1. How often is the SCBA hydrostatically tested?

- **A. Every 2 years**
- **B. Every 3 years**
- **C. Every 5 years**
- **D. Every 10 years**

2. Why is an Incident Command System important?

- **A. It allows for efficient resource distribution**
- **B. It provides structure and organization to emergency response operations**
- **C. It regulates firefighter schedules**
- **D. It supervises training programs**

3. What are the primary types of fire extinguishers?

- **A. Water, foam, and dry chemical**
- **B. Water, foam, dry chemical, CO_2, and wet chemical**
- **C. Wood, foam, and chemical**
- **D. Water, CO_2, and sand-based**

4. In case of rapid fire spread, what should firefighters prioritize?

- **A. Evacuating civilians**
- **B. Establishing a water supply**
- **C. Controlling the fire's perimeter**
- **D. Gathering additional resources**

5. Define "fire spread."

- **A. The noise created by a fire**
- **B. The rate at which fire moves through a combustible material or into adjacent areas**
- **C. The methods used to control a fire**
- **D. The amount of smoke produced by a fire**

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6. What does venting mean in firefighting?

- **A. The process of spraying water on a fire**
- **B. The process of removing smoke and heat from a structure to improve visibility and conditions**
- **C. The process of sealing off a fire scene**
- **D. The process of using foam to suppress a fire**

7. What is the purpose of fire hydrants?

- **A. To provide a reliable water supply for firefighting efforts**
- **B. To extinguish small fires independently**
- **C. To act as barriers against fires**
- **D. To make buildings easier to identify**

8. What does the term "secondary search" entail?

- **A. A quick search of the vicinity for lost equipment**
- **B. A thorough search of a building after the primary search, ensuring no victims are missed**
- **C. A preliminary assessment before the fire is extinguished**
- **D. A method of securing the perimeter**

9. What does MST stand for in firefighting terminology?

- **A. Main Stream Tip**
- **B. Main Solid Stream Tip**
- **C. Main Safety Tip**
- **D. Main Support Tip**

10. How often should firefighters undergo physical fitness training?

- **A. Once a month**
- **B. Regularly, ideally at least several times a week**
- **C. Only when preparing for a competition**
- **D. Every few months**

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How often is the SCBA hydrostatically tested?

A. Every 2 years

B. Every 3 years

C. Every 5 years

D. Every 10 years

The correct answer is based on established safety regulations and industry practices regarding the maintenance and testing of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) cylinders. SCBA tanks must undergo hydrostatic testing every five years to ensure they are maintained in a safe operating condition. This testing procedure evaluates the integrity of the cylinder by filling it with liquid and subjecting it to high pressure, which helps identify any potential weaknesses or defects that could lead to failure during use. Regular hydrostatic testing is essential for maintaining firefighter safety, as it ensures the equipment that provides breathing support in hazardous environments is reliable and capable of withstanding the pressures associated with firefighting activities. This interval aligns with standards set by organizations such as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Department of Transportation (DOT), which govern the safe use and maintenance of these critical life-saving devices. The other intervals mentioned for hydrostatic testing—such as every 2 years, 3 years, or 10 years—do not conform to the standard practices outlined in safety regulations. Following these guidelines helps ensure all firefighting personnel can rely on their SCBA cylinders for optimal performance when faced with dangerous situations.

2. Why is an Incident Command System important?

A. It allows for efficient resource distribution

B. It provides structure and organization to emergency response operations

C. It regulates firefighter schedules

D. It supervises training programs

The Incident Command System (ICS) is vital because it provides a structured framework that enhances the organization and effectiveness of emergency response operations. By establishing clear roles, responsibilities, and communication channels, the ICS ensures that all responders work cohesively towards a common goal in a coordinated manner during emergencies. Using the ICS allows for the rapid assessment of an incident and the effective deployment of resources. This structure minimizes confusion, enhances situational awareness, and ensures that all team members, regardless of their agency or background, understand their specific duties during an incident. This organizational framework is crucial in high-stress environments where rapid decision-making is required, allowing for effective incident management. While efficient resource distribution and oversight of training can be elements of the broader emergency response process, the primary purpose of the ICS is to ensure the orderly and effective coordination of all response efforts at the scene of an incident. Thus, the correct answer highlights the core function of the ICS in organizing and structuring emergency response efforts.

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3. What are the primary types of fire extinguishers?

A. Water, foam, and dry chemical

B. Water, foam, dry chemical, CO_2, and wet chemical

C. Wood, foam, and chemical

D. Water, CO_2, and sand-based

The primary types of fire extinguishers are critical for understanding fire safety and effective firefighting techniques. The correct choice includes water, foam, dry chemical, CO_2 (carbon dioxide), and wet chemical. Water extinguishers are effective for Class A fires, which involve combustible materials like wood and paper. Foam extinguishers can smother fires, making them suitable for Class A and B fires, which include flammable liquids. Dry chemical extinguishers are versatile and can handle several classes of fires, including A, B, and C, making them widely used. CO_2 extinguishers are effective for Class B and C fires, particularly those involving flammable liquids and electrical fires, as they displace oxygen to suffocate the fire. Wet chemical extinguishers are primarily designed for Class K fires, which involve cooking oils and fats, making them essential for kitchen fires. The other choices are less comprehensive. While some options may list substances that are indeed used in firefighting, they do not cover the full range of effective extinguishing agents as comprehensively as the correct answer does. In particular, the omission of critical types like CO_2 and wet chemical significantly reduces the effectiveness of the fire extinguishing arsenal. Knowing all of these types ensures

4. In case of rapid fire spread, what should firefighters prioritize?

A. Evacuating civilians

B. Establishing a water supply

C. Controlling the fire's perimeter

D. Gathering additional resources

In the context of rapid fire spread, prioritizing the evacuation of civilians is critical for their safety. Firefighters have a duty to protect life, and when a fire is spreading quickly, it poses immediate danger to anyone in proximity. Ensuring that civilians are removed from harm's way allows emergency responders to focus efforts on combating the fire without worrying about the safety of those who are still in danger. The urgency of evacuating civilians stems from the fact that rapidly spreading fires can lead to smoke inhalation, burns, and other life-threatening conditions in mere moments. By prioritizing evacuation, firefighters help to minimize potential injuries and fatalities among the public. While establishing a water supply, controlling the fire's perimeter, and gathering additional resources are also important tactical considerations, they come after ensuring the safety of civilians. Time is of the essence in such situations, and immediate action to protect individuals takes precedence over operational logistics.

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5. Define "fire spread."

A. The noise created by a fire

B. The rate at which fire moves through a combustible material or into adjacent areas

C. The methods used to control a fire

D. The amount of smoke produced by a fire

The concept of "fire spread" specifically refers to the rate at which fire moves through combustible materials or into adjacent areas. This is a critical aspect in understanding fire behavior and dynamics, as it directly impacts how quickly a fire can grow and affect surroundings. Recognizing how fire spreads is essential for firefighters in devising strategies for containment and extinguishment. Factors such as the type of fuel, environmental conditions, and the layout of the space all influence fire spread. Knowledge of this allows firefighters to anticipate potential danger zones, assess the risk of fire escalating, and make informed decisions on how to combat a fire effectively. Controlling fire spread is a central objective in firefighting, which is why understanding its definition is fundamental for anyone in this field. The other options, while related to aspects of fire, do not encapsulate this specific and crucial phenomenon.

6. What does venting mean in firefighting?

A. The process of spraying water on a fire

B. The process of removing smoke and heat from a structure to improve visibility and conditions

C. The process of sealing off a fire scene

D. The process of using foam to suppress a fire

Venting in firefighting refers specifically to the process of removing smoke and heat from a structure to improve visibility and conditions within that environment. This procedure is crucial during firefighting operations, as it can enhance both the safety of firefighters and the chances of rescuing any victims who may be trapped inside. By venting, the concentration of toxic gases is reduced, and the temperature is lowered, allowing responders to navigate more effectively and conduct their work more safely. In the context of firefighting tactics, venting is typically executed through the strategic opening of windows, doors, or roofs, which allows for a clearer path for smoke and heat to escape. This not only aids in improving conditions but can also help to prevent flashover and other dangerous fire events that may occur when heat builds up within a confined space. Other options do not accurately describe venting. Spraying water on a fire involves suppression techniques aimed at extinguishing flames. Sealing off a fire scene is related to containment rather than ventilation. Using foam to suppress a fire pertains to another method of extinguishing fires, particularly effective in certain situations, such as flammable liquid fires. Venting focuses specifically on improving conditions within a structure during firefighting efforts.

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7. What is the purpose of fire hydrants?

A. To provide a reliable water supply for firefighting efforts

B. To extinguish small fires independently

C. To act as barriers against fires

D. To make buildings easier to identify

The primary purpose of fire hydrants is to provide a reliable water supply for firefighting efforts. Fire hydrants are strategically placed throughout urban and suburban areas to ensure that firefighters have immediate access to a significant volume of water needed to combat fires efficiently. This access is crucial during emergency situations, as it allows firefighters to quickly connect hoses and begin battling the flames, ultimately saving lives and property. Each fire hydrant is connected to the municipal water system and is designed to deliver water under pressure, making it a vital tool for first responders. The design and placement of hydrants ensure that they can serve multiple vehicles and hoses simultaneously, which enhances the effectiveness of firefighting operations. While there are other factors regarding fire safety and prevention, such as barriers and identification, those roles do not pertain directly to the core function of a fire hydrant. The focus remains on the provision of water, which is essential for extinguishing fires efficiently.

8. What does the term "secondary search" entail?

A. A quick search of the vicinity for lost equipment

B. A thorough search of a building after the primary search, ensuring no victims are missed

C. A preliminary assessment before the fire is extinguished

D. A method of securing the perimeter

The term "secondary search" refers to a thorough search of a building that occurs after a primary search has been conducted. The primary search focuses on quickly locating and rescuing any potential victims, usually under challenging and immediate conditions. Once this initial search is completed, the secondary search is undertaken to ensure that no victims have been overlooked and to assess the area more carefully for any hazards or additional individuals needing assistance. During the secondary search, firefighters will systematically check areas that may not have been thoroughly examined during the initial quick search. This process often involves a more methodical approach, including using tools like thermal imaging cameras and ensuring that all compartments and spaces within the structure are checked. The other options reflect different operations or tasks that are not associated with the specific definition of a secondary search. A quick search for lost equipment, a preliminary assessment before extinguishing a fire, and securing a perimeter all serve different purposes in fireground operations and do not align with the detailed follow-up search that characterizes a secondary search.

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9. What does MST stand for in firefighting terminology?

A. Main Stream Tip

B. Main Solid Stream Tip

C. Main Safety Tip

D. Main Support Tip

In firefighting terminology, MST stands for Main Solid Stream Tip. This refers to a specific type of nozzle or tip on a firefighter's hose that is designed to produce a solid stream of water, allowing for more effective suppression of fires. The solid stream is advantageous in certain situations, particularly for reaching deep into the seat of a fire, as it provides greater penetration compared to a fog stream. Using a solid stream also reduces the amount of water that is lost to evaporation and enhances the ability to reach targets at a distance. Firefighters are trained to utilize solid stream tips effectively in various scenarios, as they can improve both water delivery and fire control. The other options, while they may seem plausible, do not reflect the standard terminology used within the firefighting community. Understanding the correct terminology and its application is crucial in ensuring effective communication and operation during fire response situations.

10. How often should firefighters undergo physical fitness training?

A. Once a month

B. Regularly, ideally at least several times a week

C. Only when preparing for a competition

D. Every few months

Regular physical fitness training is vital for firefighters due to the physically demanding nature of their job. Firefighters often face situations that require significant strength, endurance, and agility, including carrying heavy equipment, performing rescues, and navigating hazardous environments. Engaging in fitness training several times a week helps maintain the fitness levels necessary to safely and effectively perform their duties. This frequency also reduces the risk of injury, enhances cardiovascular conditioning, and improves overall physical health, which is essential for the demands of firefighting. It fosters an environment of continuous improvement in physical capabilities, ensuring firefighters are prepared for emergencies at all times. In contrast, training once a month or only preparing for competitions does not provide the consistent physical conditioning needed to stay at peak performance levels. Additionally, undergoing training every few months would likely lead to a decline in fitness, making firefighters less effective in critical situations where physical performance is crucial. Regular training, therefore, is essential in promoting both individual health and the safety of the community that firefighters serve.

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