Fire Alarm Lesson 5&6 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

1. Which cable type is specified for two hours of direct fire exposure?

A. FPLP-CI

B. FPLP

C. FPLP-C

D. FPLP-CX

2. What does a waterflow switch do in a sprinkler system?

A. It detects water movement in the sprinkler pipes and triggers a fire alarm event when water flow is detected.

B. It detects humidity in the building.

C. It controls the sprinkler valve to release water on command.

D. It records water usage for billing.

3. Which protocol is permitted to interconnect HVAC or other systems to a network shared by the fire alarm system?

A. BACnet

B. Modbus

C. KNX

D. DALI

4. Control units that perform releasing service must be?

A. Connected to the building fire alarm system

B. Listed for releasing service

C. Monitored for alarm, trouble, and supervisory signals

D. Physically separated from the system

5. Fire alarm circuit conductors installed above a suspended ceiling may use the same support wires that support the ceiling grid.

A. True

B. False

C. Depends on ceiling type

D. Only with special hardware

6. During a yearly system test, which activity helps verify the response of initiating devices?

A. Replacing all NACs.

B. Functional tests of initiating devices.

C. Installing new zones.

D. Reprogramming the entire climate control.

7. Fire pump installations are covered by which NFPA standard?

A. NFPA 20

B. NFPA 13

C. NFPA 72

D. NFPA 101

8. During an active alarm, which indicator on the panel is typically observed?

A. Alarm indicators on the panel

B. Maintenance-only indicator

C. Normal operation LED

D. Temperature readings

9. Assuming there are no approved separations between conductors, which conductors are permitted in the same cable or raceway as power-limited circuit conductors?

A. Class 2

B. Class 1

C. Class 3

D. Class 4

10. Which of the following must be deenergized when sprinklers actuate in the same area?

A. HVAC fans

B. HVLS fans

C. Lighting

D. Elevators

Answers

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

Explanations

1. Which cable type is specified for two hours of direct fire exposure?

A. FPLP-CI

B. FPLP

C. FPLP-C

D. FPLP-CX

Cables used in fire alarm circuits have fire-resistance ratings that specify how long they can withstand direct flame exposure. When a requirement calls for survive two hours of direct fire, you need a cable that is explicitly rated for that duration. The FPLP-CI variant is designed for a two-hour direct-fire exposure, making it the appropriate choice to meet that requirement. The other variants carry different ratings or are intended for different conditions, so they wouldn't satisfy the two-hour criterion. Always verify the exact rating from the manufacturer or the applicable standard, but for a two-hour direct exposure need, this variant matches that spec.

2. What does a waterflow switch do in a sprinkler system?

A. It detects water movement in the sprinkler pipes and triggers a fire alarm event when water flow is detected.

B. It detects humidity in the building.

C. It controls the sprinkler valve to release water on command.

D. It records water usage for billing.

The waterflow switch is there to sense movement of water inside the sprinkler pipes. It uses a small mechanism—like a paddle or turbine—that is moved when water starts flowing, such as when a sprinkler head is released or a line is active. When it detects flow, it sends a signal to the fire alarm system to indicate that water is moving, which triggers the alarm. This lets responders know that the system has discharged water, which is critical for a timely alert. Humidity sensors and devices that control valves serve different purposes. Humidity sensing looks at ambient air moisture, not water in the pipes. The sprinkler valve is usually operated by the fire protection system itself, not forced by the flow switch. Metering water usage for billing is a separate function not tied to alarm signaling.

3. Which protocol is permitted to interconnect HVAC or other systems to a network shared by the fire alarm system?

A. BACnet

B. Modbus

C. KNX

D. DALI

Interoperability between building systems is achieved with a protocol designed for sharing data across different devices and vendors. BACnet is specifically built for building automation and control networks, so it enables HVAC and other systems to connect to a network that a fire alarm system also uses. This open standard makes it possible for the fire alarm system, HVAC, and other building systems to exchange status information and, when appropriate, be controlled from a common network, while still meeting safety and integration requirements. Other protocols like Modbus are more focused on industrial control of specific equipment, KNX is a European-building-automation standard that doesn't have the same widespread support for fire-alarm network integration, and DALI is aimed at lighting control. They don't offer the same level of interoperable support with fire-alarm networks as BACnet, which is why BACnet is the best choice here.

4. Control units that perform releasing service must be?

A. Connected to the building fire alarm system

B. Listed for releasing service

C. Monitored for alarm, trouble, and supervisory signals

D. Physically separated from the system

Releasing service devices must be listed for releasing service. This means the control unit has been tested and certified by a recognized testing laboratory specifically for releasing operations, confirming it is designed and proven to perform this critical function reliably and safely within a fire protection system. Listing ensures proper design, wiring, power, and fail-safe behavior, and it gives the authority having jurisdiction confidence that the device will operate as intended in an emergency. While these units typically interface with the building's fire alarm system and may be monitored, those factors describe how they are used rather than the essential requirement that qualifies them for releasing service. Being physically separated from the system is not a universal requirement.

5. Fire alarm circuit conductors installed above a suspended ceiling may use the same support wires that support the ceiling grid.

A. True

B. False

C. Depends on ceiling type

D. Only with special hardware

When fire alarm conductors are placed above a suspended ceiling, they must be independently supported and protected. The wires that suspend the ceiling grid aren't designed to carry additional electrical loads or to keep cables secure over time, and they can be moved or disturbed during maintenance. Relying on those same support wires introduces a risk that the fire alarm cabling could shift, get damaged, or fail when needed most. To meet reliability and protection requirements, the conductors are typically supported by listed cable supports or trays, or by the building structure, rather than by the ceiling grid wires. So, using the same support wires as the ceiling grid is not allowed.

6. During a yearly system test, which activity helps verify the response of initiating devices?

A. Replacing all NACs.

B. Functional tests of initiating devices.

C. Installing new zones.

D. Reprogramming the entire climate control.

During a yearly system test, the activity that directly verifies the response of initiating devices is performing functional tests on those devices. This means testing each initiating device—such as smoke detectors, heat detectors, and manual pull stations—by triggering them (or simulating a signal) to ensure the fire alarm control panel detects the activation, annunciates the correct zone, and starts the alarm as intended. This check confirms both the sensing element and the communication path to the panel are working reliably, so that actual events will produce the proper alarm response. Other activities don't directly test initiating devices: replacing all notification appliances targets the audible/visual alarms, installing new zones changes system layout, and reprogramming the climate control is unrelated to initiating device operation.

7. Fire pump installations are covered by which NFPA standard?

A. NFPA 20

B. NFPA 13

C. NFPA 72

D. NFPA 101

Fire pump installations are governed by the NFPA standard that specifically addresses stationary pumps for fire protection. This standard lays out how pumps should be located, installed, powered, and tested to ensure reliable operation during a fire. It covers details like pump room requirements, suction and discharge piping, priming, controllers, and both automatic and manual start methods, as well as power supply and redundancy. It also guides how the pump integrates with the rest of the fire protection system and water supplies, so the pump will perform when needed. In contrast, NFPA 13 deals with designing and installing water-based sprinkler systems, NFPA 72 covers fire alarm signaling, and NFPA 101 focuses on life safety and occupancy protection.

8. During an active alarm, which indicator on the panel is typically observed?

A. Alarm indicators on the panel

B. Maintenance-only indicator

C. Normal operation LED

D. Temperature readings

During an active alarm, the panel displays alarm indicators. These lights (or messages) are specifically designed to show that the system has been triggered by a detected condition and that the audible alert is sounding. They also help identify which zones or devices contributed to the alarm. The maintenance-only indicator signals servicing or fault conditions, not an active emergency. The normal operation LED would indicate everything is fine, not an alarm, and temperature readings are informative for sensors but not the primary sign of an active alert. So the alarm indicators are the direct, most reliable sign that an alarm is currently active.

9. Assuming there are no approved separations between conductors, which conductors are permitted in the same cable or raceway as power-limited circuit conductors?

A. Class 2

B. Class 1

C. Class 3

D. Class 4

When there are no approved separations between conductors, you can only mix in the same cable or raceway the conductors that are themselves power-limited at the same or lower level. Class 2 conductors fit that safe, low-energy category, so they are the ones permitted to share a raceway with power-limited circuit conductors. Higher-powered or differently insulated classes (like Class 1, Class 3, or Class 4) require separation or barriers to prevent interaction, so they're not allowed to share without approved separations.

10. Which of the following must be deenergized when sprinklers actuate in the same area?

A. HVAC fans

B. HVLS fans

C. Lighting

D. Elevators

When sprinklers discharge in a space, the goal is to minimize air movement that could spread water, heat, or smoke and to reduce electrical hazards around the wet environment. Large ceiling fans (HVLS fans) move a lot of air with relatively low speed, so if they stay energized, they can carry sprinkler water droplets or smoky air to other parts of the area. Turning them off helps localize the water to the sprinklered zone and reduces the potential for spreading smoke or delaying evacuation. HVLS fans aren't essential to life safety in the immediate firefighting scenario, so deenergizing them is the safest, most effective action in this moment. Elevator operations and lighting/other systems have their own fire-response procedures, and HVAC systems are typically controlled by fire-sequence logic, but the large air movers specifically pose the greatest risk if left running when sprinklers actuate.

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://firealarmlesson5and6.examzify.com

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