

# Fire and Emergency Services Training Institute (FESTI) Entry Exam Practice (Sample)

## Study Guide



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## **Questions**

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- 1. Why are buildings under construction or renovation more susceptible to fire spread?**
  - A. There are fewer exits available**
  - B. Materials have increased combustibility**
  - C. Sprinklers and FDC are not yet operational**
  - D. Electrical systems are incomplete**
- 2. What must a Firefighter II be able to do to assist in a technical rescue incident?**
  - A. Recognize hazards associated with the type of incident**
  - B. Direct traffic away from the scene**
  - C. Provide first aid**
  - D. Operate heavy machinery**
- 3. Name a major priority during a primary search of a structure.**
  - A. To gather evidence for investigations**
  - B. To locate and rescue any occupants who may be trapped**
  - C. To assess structural stability**
  - D. To extinguish any fire present**
- 4. What is the primary purpose of a fire alarm system?**
  - A. To alert emergency services of a fire**
  - B. To notify occupants of a fire**
  - C. To record fire emergencies for investigation**
  - D. To activate fire suppression systems**
- 5. What must a firefighter maintain in mind when using a fire extinguisher?**
  - A. The PASS technique**
  - B. Distance from the fire**
  - C. Type of chemical**
  - D. Time of use**

- 6. Describe the role of public education in fire prevention.**
- A. To promote community services**
  - B. To raise awareness and provide information to reduce fire risks**
  - C. To enforce fire safety regulations**
  - D. To support fire department funding initiatives**
- 7. What is one major hazard of smoke inhalation?**
- A. It can cause skin burns**
  - B. It can cause asphyxiation and respiratory issues**
  - C. It can lead to instant loss of consciousness**
  - D. It can create psychological stress**
- 8. When service testing a hose, what must personnel have access to?**
- A. A water supply with sufficient pressure**
  - B. Sufficient space for charging the hose**
  - C. A backup hose for emergencies**
  - D. A cooling system for the water**
- 9. What is the primary focus of fire prevention?**
- A. To respond quickly to fire outbreaks**
  - B. To investigate the causes of fires**
  - C. To reduce the risk of fire occurrence**
  - D. To improve building construction standards**
- 10. What action might you be requested to perform by a fire investigator at the scene?**
- A. Keep a log of personnel entering a fire scene**
  - B. Take photographs of the scene**
  - C. Perform initial fire suppression**
  - D. Conduct interviews with witnesses**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Why are buildings under construction or renovation more susceptible to fire spread?**

- A. There are fewer exits available**
- B. Materials have increased combustibility**
- C. Sprinklers and FDC are not yet operational**
- D. Electrical systems are incomplete**

Buildings under construction or renovation often pose a heightened risk for fire spread primarily due to the absence of operational fire protection systems, such as sprinklers and fire department connections (FDC). When these systems are not yet fully installed or operational, there is no automatic mechanism to suppress potential fires, allowing them to grow unchecked and spread more easily throughout the structure. Additionally, the environment of construction or renovation frequently includes various types of flammable materials, debris, and equipment that can contribute to fire hazards. Without the safeguards that functioning sprinkler systems provide, fires can escalate quickly, resulting in rapid fire spread and greater risk to firefighters and emergency responders. The presence of incomplete electrical systems also contributes to the risk; however, the primary factor in this scenario is the lack of effective fire protection measures. This makes option related to operational sprinklers the most fitting explanation for the increased susceptibility to fire spread in such environments.

**2. What must a Firefighter II be able to do to assist in a technical rescue incident?**

- A. Recognize hazards associated with the type of incident**
- B. Direct traffic away from the scene**
- C. Provide first aid**
- D. Operate heavy machinery**

A Firefighter II must be able to recognize hazards associated with the type of incident to effectively assist in a technical rescue scenario. This skill is crucial because different types of emergencies present unique dangers, such as structural collapse, hazardous materials, or electrical risks. By identifying these hazards, a firefighter can take appropriate precautions for their safety and the safety of the rescue team and bystanders. This understanding enables effective planning and execution of rescue operations, ensuring that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate risks before engaging in any rescues. While directing traffic away from the scene, providing first aid, and operating heavy machinery may also be relevant skills at a rescue incident, they are not the primary responsibility of a Firefighter II in the context of a technical rescue. Recognizing hazards is fundamental to ensuring that all operations are conducted safely and effectively.

**3. Name a major priority during a primary search of a structure.**

- A. To gather evidence for investigations**
- B. To locate and rescue any occupants who may be trapped**
- C. To assess structural stability**
- D. To extinguish any fire present**

During a primary search of a structure, the foremost priority is to locate and rescue any occupants who may be trapped. This action is vital for saving lives, as people inside a burning or hazardous environment are often in extreme danger and may not be able to escape on their own. The primary search is conducted quickly and systematically, focusing on ensuring that all areas of the structure are checked for victims who are unaccounted for. While gathering evidence, assessing structural stability, and extinguishing any fire presence are important aspects of fire response, they do not take precedence over the immediate need to locate and rescue individuals. Evidence gathering is typically conducted after the occupants have been secured, as it can interfere with rescue operations. Assessing stability and extinguishing fires, though critical for the safety of responders and further operations, are secondary to the life-saving efforts initiated during the primary search.

**4. What is the primary purpose of a fire alarm system?**

- A. To alert emergency services of a fire**
- B. To notify occupants of a fire**
- C. To record fire emergencies for investigation**
- D. To activate fire suppression systems**

The primary purpose of a fire alarm system is to notify occupants of a fire. This function is critical because early awareness of a fire can significantly reduce the risk of injury or loss of life. Fire alarm systems are designed to detect smoke, heat, or flames and sound an alarm to alert building occupants, allowing them to evacuate promptly and seek safety. This prompt notification can also provide valuable time for individuals to enact pre-planned emergency procedures, such as exiting the building in an orderly manner. While other functions, such as alerting emergency services, recording incidents, and triggering suppression systems, are also important components of a comprehensive fire safety strategy, their roles are secondary to the primary responsibility of alerting occupants. The core objective of a fire alarm system being to ensure that those within the building are aware of a fire situation and can take necessary actions to protect themselves.

**5. What must a firefighter maintain in mind when using a fire extinguisher?**

- A. The PASS technique**
- B. Distance from the fire**
- C. Type of chemical**
- D. Time of use**

The PASS technique is a crucial method that ensures firefighters effectively and safely operate a fire extinguisher. This technique consists of four steps: Pull the pin, Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire, Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly, and Sweep the nozzle from side to side. By adhering to this systematic approach, a firefighter maximizes the extinguisher's effectiveness and minimizes the risk of injury or exacerbating the fire. Maintaining proper distance from the fire, recognizing the type of chemical in the extinguisher, and considering the timing of use are all important factors. However, they do not encapsulate the specific operational steps necessary for effective extinguisher use like the PASS technique does. The emphasis on this method equips firefighters with a clear and repeatable process, essential for controlling and extinguishing fires safely and effectively.

**6. Describe the role of public education in fire prevention.**

- A. To promote community services**
- B. To raise awareness and provide information to reduce fire risks**
- C. To enforce fire safety regulations**
- D. To support fire department funding initiatives**

Public education plays a crucial role in fire prevention by raising awareness and providing information that helps reduce fire risks within communities. When individuals are educated about fire hazards, safety practices, and prevention strategies, they are more likely to take proactive steps to protect themselves and their environment. This knowledge may include understanding how to use fire extinguishers, the importance of smoke detectors, and recognizing the signs of potentially dangerous situations, such as overloaded electrical circuits. Effective public education campaigns can significantly lower the incidence of fire-related incidents by equipping people with the tools and understanding they need to prevent fires before they start. This proactive approach to increasing awareness ensures that communities are kept safe through informed actions that reduce the likelihood of a fire occurring, thus fulfilling a vital function in public safety and health.

## 7. What is one major hazard of smoke inhalation?

- A. It can cause skin burns
- B. It can cause asphyxiation and respiratory issues**
- C. It can lead to instant loss of consciousness
- D. It can create psychological stress

One major hazard of smoke inhalation is that it can cause asphyxiation and respiratory issues. When smoke is inhaled, it contains harmful gases, particulate matter, and irritants that can obstruct the airway and lead to a decreased level of oxygen in the bloodstream. This can result in asphyxiation, which occurs when the body does not receive enough oxygen to sustain bodily functions. Additionally, the toxic components in smoke can damage lung tissue and impair respiratory ability, leading to complications such as acute respiratory distress or pulmonary edema. Understanding this hazard is crucial for emergency responders, as it emphasizes the importance of protective measures such as wearing respiratory gear in smoke-filled environments and ensuring victim evacuation is prioritized for those exposed to smoke. In contrast, while skin burns can occur in fire environments, they are not primarily a consequence of smoke inhalation. Instant loss of consciousness could happen due to various factors in an emergency situation, but it is not a direct result of smoke inhalation. Psychological stress, though a valid concern following a traumatic event, does not relate specifically to the immediate physiological effects of smoke exposure.

## 8. When service testing a hose, what must personnel have access to?

- A. A water supply with sufficient pressure
- B. Sufficient space for charging the hose**
- C. A backup hose for emergencies
- D. A cooling system for the water

In the context of service testing a hose, personnel must have access to sufficient space for charging the hose. Proper space is crucial because it allows for the hose to be fully deployed and pressurized without any obstructions. This space ensures that the testing process can occur safely, enabling personnel to observe any potential hazards, such as leaks or ruptures, that could occur when the hose is charged with water under pressure. Having adequate space helps maintain a safe working environment and provides room for personnel to maneuver and respond effectively if any issues arise during the testing. While access to a water supply with sufficient pressure is essential for conducting the test, it is the spatial considerations that are critical for safely performing the operation and managing any risks involved. This highlights the importance of both safety and operational effectiveness during hose testing procedures.

**9. What is the primary focus of fire prevention?**

- A. To respond quickly to fire outbreaks**
- B. To investigate the causes of fires**
- C. To reduce the risk of fire occurrence**
- D. To improve building construction standards**

The primary focus of fire prevention is to reduce the risk of fire occurrence. This encompasses a wide variety of strategies and practices designed to minimize the likelihood of fires starting in the first place. Effective fire prevention measures can include public education on fire safety, enforcing fire codes, conducting fire risk assessments, and implementing preventive maintenance programs. When the risk of a fire is significantly lowered, the potential for injuries, property damage, and loss of life is also reduced, contributing to higher safety standards within communities. While responding quickly to fire outbreaks is essential for mitigating fire damage and securing safety during a fire event, it is a reactive approach rather than a preventative one. Investigating the causes of fires adds insights that can help inform future prevention strategies, but it does not directly prevent fires from occurring. Improving building construction standards is also an important aspect of fire safety; however, it specifically relates to how buildings are designed and constructed rather than the overarching goal of preventing fire occurrences. Thus, the most accurate description of the primary focus remains the effort to reduce the risk of fire occurrence.

**10. What action might you be requested to perform by a fire investigator at the scene?**

- A. Keep a log of personnel entering a fire scene**
- B. Take photographs of the scene**
- C. Perform initial fire suppression**
- D. Conduct interviews with witnesses**

Keeping a log of personnel entering a fire scene is an important task that helps maintain a record of who is accessing the site. This is crucial for safety, accountability, and ensuring that all individuals involved in the investigation can be tracked for later follow-up if necessary. A detailed entry log assists fire investigators in preserving the integrity of the scene, documenting the chain of custody for evidence, and managing the overall operation effectively. While taking photographs, performing fire suppression, and conducting witness interviews are all tasks that may be relevant in the context of a fire scene, the specific action of maintaining a personnel log is a fundamental requirement that often rests on the supportive staff, rather than the investigators themselves. It underscores the importance of organization and documentation in fire investigation processes.