

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING INSTITUTE (FESTI) EXAM 4 PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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 type of structure pattern where a wall partially collapses with another wall standing?**
 - A. Cavern collapse
 - B. Lean-to
 - C. Pile collapse
 - D. Shear collapse

- 2. Which device can lift heavy loads by air pressure and may exceed 75 tons?**
 - A. Cribbing
 - B. Winches
 - C. Extension Ram
 - D. Pneumatic Lifting Bag

- 3. Which factor most influences the effectiveness of interior attack when heat and smoke conditions are extreme?**
 - A. The number of personnel on scene
 - B. Availability of water
 - C. The location of the fire and presence of backdraft potential
 - D. Time of day

- 4. What is the purpose of securing a rope with a friction hitch?**
 - A. To create a strong, adjustable anchor point that can be belayed or hauled
 - B. To create a fixed, non-adjustable anchor
 - C. To prevent rope from bending
 - D. To mark the rope

- 5. What is the general objective of an offensive strategy at a structure fire?**
 - A. To evacuate bystanders
 - B. To extinguish the fire as quickly and safely as possible
 - C. To locate the fire source
 - D. To contain only the exterior

- 6. Which term describes a pulling method using a ratchet and pulley arrangement to create mechanical advantage?**
- A. Cribbing
 - B. Winches
 - C. Come-Along
 - D. Extension Ram
- 7. What is the primary focus of scene safety in EMS operations?**
- A. Rapid patient removal to the ambulance
 - B. Keeping patients and responders safe while enabling effective care and access
 - C. Documenting all actions for legal review
 - D. Minimizing PPE use to speed response
- 8. In many fires, which three elements define the fire triangle that must be present to sustain a flame?**
- A. Water, oxygen, and heat
 - B. Fuel, water, and pressure
 - C. Heat, electricity, and oxygen
 - D. Heat, fuel, and an oxidizer (air)
- 9. What is the term for the formal handover of incident command from one person to another?**
- A. Command assumption
 - B. Transfer of Command
 - C. Unified Command switch
 - D. Handover of Control
- 10. Who has overall responsibility for the incident and makes key decisions on strategy and safety?**
- A. The Safety Officer
 - B. Operations Section Chief
 - C. The Incident Commander
 - D. Public Information Officer

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the type of structure pattern where a wall partially collapses with another wall standing?

- A. Cavern collapse
- B. Lean-to
- C. Pile collapse**
- D. Shear collapse

Pile collapse describes a pattern where part of a wall or structure fails and debris piles up, while another wall remains standing. The scenario you described—one wall partially collapses while a second wall stays upright—fits this pattern because you'd see rubble forming a pile against (or at the base of) the standing wall, rather than a clean, uniform failure or a wall leaning against another. This differs from a lean-to, where the collapsing portion creates a true leaning against a second wall, and from cavern or shear collapses, which involve voids or distinct shear failures rather than a partial collapse with a standing wall.

2. Which device can lift heavy loads by air pressure and may exceed 75 tons?

- A. Cribbing
- B. Winches
- C. Extension Ram
- D. Pneumatic Lifting Bag**

Pneumatic lifting bags lift loads by using compressed air to create a lifting force, and their capacity can reach very high numbers, with large bags or multiple bags able to exceed 75 tons. This makes them the right choice for heavy lifting in rescue or industrial settings, where you place the bag under the load, inflate it gradually, and the bag raises the load while cribbing and stabilization keep everything secure. Cribbing, by contrast, is simply blocks used to support and distribute weight but doesn't lift on its own. A winch pulls loads via rope or cable and isn't powered by air pressure. An extension ram is typically hydraulic and used to push or extend, not to lift heavy loads with air. So the device designed to lift by air pressure and capable of very large capacities is the pneumatic lifting bag.

3. Which factor most influences the effectiveness of interior attack when heat and smoke conditions are extreme?

- A. The number of personnel on scene
- B. Availability of water
- C. The location of the fire and presence of backdraft potential**
- D. Time of day

When heat and smoke are extreme, the most important factor shaping the success of an interior attack is understanding where the fire is and whether backdraft or rapid ignition risks exist. Knowing the fire's location guides every move: where to push the hose, which doorway or window to use for entry, and how to position crews to stay ahead of heat and toxic smoke. It also informs your ventilation plan, because opening the wrong area or at the wrong time can feed the fire with fresh air and trigger a dangerous or sudden flare. Backdraft potential matters greatly because a sealed or poorly ventilated space with hot, fuel-rich gases can explode or rapidly flash when air is introduced. Anticipating that risk lets you adjust tactics—such as delaying interior entry, using controlled ventilation to relieve pressure, or applying water from a safer, exterior position to cool the area before committing crews. When you can accurately map the fire location and assess backdraft chances, you can choose safer, more effective methods for interior attack, even under intense heat and smoke. Other factors like how many personnel are on scene, water availability, or the time of day influence operations, but they do not determine the fundamental feasibility and safety of entering to fight the fire as directly as knowing where the fire is and whether backdraft could occur.

4. What is the purpose of securing a rope with a friction hitch?

- A. To create a strong, adjustable anchor point that can be belayed or hauled**
- B. To create a fixed, non-adjustable anchor
- C. To prevent rope from bending
- D. To mark the rope

Friction hitches create an adjustable anchor by gripping the rope through friction as weight is applied. This lets you position the anchor along the rope and then lock it in place under load, providing a strong, movable point for belaying or hauling. The key idea is control: you can slide the hitch to the desired spot and tighten it to hold, which is why this method is used in systems where the anchor needs to be repositioned or tensioned. It isn't about making a fixed, non-adjustable anchor, marking the rope, or preventing bending—the purpose is the controllable, friction-based grip that supports belay or haul operations.

5. What is the general objective of an offensive strategy at a structure fire?

- A. To evacuate bystanders
- B. To extinguish the fire as quickly and safely as possible**
- C. To locate the fire source
- D. To contain only the exterior

An offensive strategy at a structure fire focuses on actively attacking the fire to bring it under control as quickly and safely as possible. The main purpose is to extinguish the flames fast to limit spread, reduce heat and smoke damage, and protect occupants and exposures, all while keeping firefighters safe. This approach involves getting to the seat of the fire, applying water or other suppressants effectively, and coordinating teams to maintain control and situational awareness. Evacuating bystanders is an important safety action during a fire incident, but it isn't the tactical aim of the offensive attack. Locating the fire source is a necessary step in planning the attack, yet it's not the overarching objective. Containing only the exterior resembles a defensive tactic rather than the primary goal of an offensive push, which is to extinguish efficiently from within when conditions permit.

6. Which term describes a pulling method using a ratchet and pulley arrangement to create mechanical advantage?

- A. Cribbing
- B. Winches
- C. Come-Along**
- D. Extension Ram

A pulling method that uses a ratchet and pulley arrangement to gain mechanical advantage is a come-along. This portable hand-operated hoist uses a cable threaded through pulleys to create a block-and-tackle setup, which multiplies the force you can apply. The ratchet lets you lock in each incremental pull, so you can steadily move a load without it slipping back. That combination of a ratchet mechanism and pulleys is what gives the come-along its classic advantage for pulling tasks. Cribbing is just stabilizing blocks, a winch is a general pulling device (often powered), and an extension ram is a hydraulic piston—none pair a ratchet with a pulley system in the same way.

7. What is the primary focus of scene safety in EMS operations?

- A. Rapid patient removal to the ambulance
- B. Keeping patients and responders safe while enabling effective care and access**
- C. Documenting all actions for legal review
- D. Minimizing PPE use to speed response

Scene safety means making sure the environment is safe for everyone involved—patients, bystanders, and responders—so care can be given without adding risk. The main idea is to assess and control hazards, use appropriate protective equipment, and maintain awareness of what's happening around you. When the scene is safe, you can reach the patient, evaluate what they need, and begin treatment or secure transport without becoming another casualty yourself. This emphasis on protection and controlled access is what allows effective care to happen. Rushing to remove a patient to the ambulance without first addressing hazards can put both patient and responders in greater danger. Documentation and PPE decisions matter, but they exist to support safety and proper care, not as the primary focus. Minimizing PPE to speed response would undermine safety and is not appropriate.

8. In many fires, which three elements define the fire triangle that must be present to sustain a flame?

- A. Water, oxygen, and heat
- B. Fuel, water, and pressure
- C. Heat, electricity, and oxygen
- D. Heat, fuel, and an oxidizer (air)**

Flame persistence relies on three ingredients: heat, fuel, and an oxidizer (air). Heat provides the energy to keep the chemical reaction going; without enough heat, the fuel won't reach its ignition temperature and the flame goes out. Fuel is the combustible material that is burning; once it's used up, there's nothing left to burn. The oxidizer, typically oxygen in the air, accepts the energy from the reaction and allows the oxidation process to continue. If any one of these elements is missing, combustion cannot be sustained. That's why heat, fuel, and an oxidizer (air) is the correct combination. Water, electricity, or pressure aren't part of the sustenance triad—water actually removes heat and can extinguish flames, while electricity and pressure aren't required to keep a flame burning.

9. What is the term for the formal handover of incident command from one person to another?

- A. Command assumption
- B. Transfer of Command**
- C. Unified Command switch
- D. Handover of Control

Transfer of Command is the formal passing of incident command authority from the current Incident Commander to a successor. In the ICS framework, this term signifies an official handover, typically preceded by a concise transfer briefing and followed by the receiving person's acceptance of command. This ensures continuity of leadership, a clear chain of command, and shared awareness of the incident status, objectives, and safety concerns. Other phrases aren't the standard terminology used in ICS for this formal process. They may sound plausible, but they don't reflect the official term used in procedures and training.

10. Who has overall responsibility for the incident and makes key decisions on strategy and safety?

- A. The Safety Officer
- B. Operations Section Chief
- C. The Incident Commander
- D. Public Information Officer

In incident management, the person in charge has the ultimate responsibility for the incident and sets the strategic direction and safety posture. The Incident Commander holds this authority, making the key decisions about objectives, overall strategy, and how safety will be managed across the operation. The Safety Officer, while critical for monitoring hazards and enforcing safety plans, provides input and guidance rather than overall strategic control. The Operations Section Chief focuses on executing tactics to achieve the IC's objectives, and the Public Information Officer handles communications with the public and media.

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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://festiexam4.examzify.com>

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

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