

Highway Safety and Vehicle Extrication 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. What is the first concern when you are caring for a patient who has been in a vehicle collision?**
 - A. Your own safety**
 - B. The patient's comfort**
 - C. Calling for additional help**
 - D. Stabilizing the vehicle**
- 2. What is considered complex access when gaining entry into a vehicle?**
 - A. Using a lockout tool**
 - B. Prying a door open**
 - C. Using specialized tools or equipment**
 - D. Opening a window**
- 3. What should responders prioritize when assessing a vehicle for disentanglement?**
 - A. The make and model of the vehicle**
 - B. Identifying and managing potential hazards**
 - C. The color of the vehicle**
 - D. The location of the incident**
- 4. What is the best method for extinguishing a small fire in a vehicle's engine compartment?**
 - A. Sweep the nozzle of the extinguisher left and right**
 - B. Aim at the base of the fire and use short bursts**
 - C. Close the hood to contain the fire**
 - D. Aim the nozzle to the side of the fire and sweep at its base**
- 5. What is the appropriate action when dealing with downed electrical wires at an emergency scene?**
 - A. Initiate rescue operations immediately**
 - B. Request personnel to cut the power source**
 - C. Contact local utility companies directly**
 - D. Try to remove the wires yourself for safety**

- 6. What is considered the EMT's key role at an auto extrication scene?**
- A. Rescue technician.**
 - B. Patient advocate.**
 - C. Safety officer.**
 - D. Incident commander.**
- 7. What happens during a 'load shift' in a vehicle accident?**
- A. Objects in the vehicle remain stable**
 - B. Objects in the vehicle move suddenly, potentially causing injury**
 - C. The vehicle becomes lighter**
 - D. The fuel tank ruptures**
- 8. What is a key factor to assess regarding patient entrapment during extrication?**
- A. Exact location of the patient within the vehicle.**
 - B. Severity of injuries sustained by the patient.**
 - C. Type of vehicle involved in the collision.**
 - D. Time elapsed since the collision.**
- 9. What should you do first if you arrive at a vehicle fire with a closed hood?**
- A. Use a long-handled pry-bar to open the hood and put out the fire with a fire extinguisher.**
 - B. Let the fire burn and concentrate on extricating the patient.**
 - C. Wet the interior of the vehicle to keep the fire from spreading.**
 - D. Discharge a dry chemical fire extinguisher onto the patient's clothing.**
- 10. Which phase of extrication comes before the other three?**
- A. Sizing up the situation**
 - B. Recognizing and managing hazards**
 - C. Gaining access to the patient**
 - D. Preparing for the rescue**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the first concern when you are caring for a patient who has been in a vehicle collision?

- A. Your own safety**
- B. The patient's comfort**
- C. Calling for additional help**
- D. Stabilizing the vehicle**

The first concern when caring for a patient involved in a vehicle collision is your own safety. Ensuring your safety is paramount because it allows you to provide effective care without becoming another victim of the incident. If the scene is unsafe due to ongoing traffic, hazardous materials, or structural instability, attending to your own safety first is vital. This ensures that you can safely assist the patient and any other individuals at the scene without putting yourself at further risk. While patient comfort, calling for additional help, and stabilizing the vehicle are all important aspects of patient care and the overall response to a vehicle collision, they come after ensuring that the environment is safe for you to operate. If you are not safe, you cannot perform any of these tasks effectively.

2. What is considered complex access when gaining entry into a vehicle?

- A. Using a lockout tool**
- B. Prying a door open**
- C. Using specialized tools or equipment**
- D. Opening a window**

Complex access refers to methods of gaining entry into a vehicle that require advanced techniques, tools, or equipment due to the circumstances of the situation. Utilizing specialized tools or equipment typically involves sophisticated processes that ensure safety for both the rescuer and any individuals trapped inside the vehicle. These specialized tools might include hydraulic tools, air bags, or other devices that are designed to create a safe opening or to manipulate the vehicle in such a way that allows for safe access without causing further injury to the occupants. In contrast, methods like using a lockout tool, prying a door open, or simply opening a window are more straightforward and do not necessitate specialized training or advanced equipment. These techniques are generally considered basic access methods, suitable for less complicated scenarios where quick entry is needed without complex considerations for structural integrity or the safety of those involved. Thus, the use of specialized tools or equipment clearly aligns with the definition of complex access due to the level of expertise and procedure required.

3. What should responders prioritize when assessing a vehicle for disentanglement?

- A. The make and model of the vehicle**
- B. Identifying and managing potential hazards**
- C. The color of the vehicle**
- D. The location of the incident**

When assessing a vehicle for disentanglement, it is crucial for responders to prioritize identifying and managing potential hazards. This includes recognizing any risks associated with the vehicle itself, such as downed power lines, fire, leaks of hazardous materials, or threats posed by traffic or bystanders in the vicinity. By focusing on these hazards first, responders can ensure the safety of everyone involved, including victims, other responders, and potential bystanders. Successful disentanglement relies not only on physical access to the patient but also on creating a safe environment for the rescue operation to occur. This proactive approach minimizes the risk of further injury or complications during the extrication process, allowing responders to effectively carry out their life-saving tasks. Other factors, such as the make and model of the vehicle, the color, or even the location of the incident, might be relevant later in the assessment or for specific logistics, but they do not take precedence over immediate safety considerations.

4. What is the best method for extinguishing a small fire in a vehicle's engine compartment?

- A. Sweep the nozzle of the extinguisher left and right**
- B. Aim at the base of the fire and use short bursts**
- C. Close the hood to contain the fire**
- D. Aim the nozzle to the side of the fire and sweep at its base**

Using short bursts aimed at the base of the fire is the best method for extinguishing a small fire in a vehicle's engine compartment. This approach focuses the fire suppression effort directly where the flames originate, which is crucial for effectively extinguishing the fire. By targeting the base, the extinguishing agent is applied where it can have the most impact, helping to suffocate the flames and interrupt the combustion process. Additionally, employing short bursts prevents the water or extinguishing agent from dispersing widely, which might diminish its effectiveness. It also minimizes the risk of spreading the fire to other flammable materials that may be present within the engine compartment. Proper technique with clear aim and controlled application is vital for safety and successful fire suppression in an enclosed and potentially hazardous environment like a vehicle engine compartment.

5. What is the appropriate action when dealing with downed electrical wires at an emergency scene?

- A. Initiate rescue operations immediately**
- B. Request personnel to cut the power source**
- C. Contact local utility companies directly**
- D. Try to remove the wires yourself for safety**

The appropriate action when dealing with downed electrical wires at an emergency scene involves ensuring safety for both responders and victims. Requesting personnel to cut the power source is critical, as it mitigates the risk of electrocution or further hazards associated with live wires. This approach allows trained utility workers to manage the situation safely, ensuring that the electricity is turned off before any rescue operations can proceed. Attempting to cut the power oneself or initiating rescue operations without ensuring the area is safe can lead to severe injuries or fatalities from electrical shock. It is also not advisable to directly contact local utility companies without coordinating with the incident command, as this can cause confusion and delay critical response efforts. Additionally, removing the wires personally is extremely dangerous and not recommended, given the potential for serious injury. Thus, the recommended action of requesting personnel to cut the power is in line with established safety protocols and prioritizes safety above all else.

6. What is considered the EMT's key role at an auto extrication scene?

- A. Rescue technician.**
- B. Patient advocate.**
- C. Safety officer.**
- D. Incident commander.**

The key role of an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) at an auto extrication scene is as a patient advocate. In this capacity, the EMT's primary focus is on the care and well-being of the patient involved in the incident. This includes assessing the patient's condition, providing necessary medical treatment, and ensuring that their needs are prioritized throughout the extrication process. Being a patient advocate means that the EMT must effectively communicate the patient's needs to other responders, advocate for the overall safety of the patient, and facilitate timely and appropriate medical interventions. While other roles at the scene, such as a rescue technician, safety officer, or incident commander, focus more on the logistical or operational aspects of the extrication, the EMT's advocate role is centered on the individual's health and safety. This involves monitoring vital signs, administering first aid, and preparing the patient for transport once extrication is complete. Maintaining a focus on the patient is critical in ensuring the best possible outcome in such high-stress, time-sensitive situations.

7. What happens during a 'load shift' in a vehicle accident?

- A. Objects in the vehicle remain stable**
- B. Objects in the vehicle move suddenly, potentially causing injury**
- C. The vehicle becomes lighter**
- D. The fuel tank ruptures**

During a 'load shift' in a vehicle accident, the contents within the vehicle can move suddenly due to the forces exerted on the vehicle during the collision. This sudden movement can pose a significant risk of injury to passengers or drivers, especially if unsecured items are present. When a vehicle experiences abrupt changes in speed or direction, such as during a crash, the inertia of the objects inside the vehicle causes them to continue moving in their original direction. If these objects are not properly secured, they can move from their position, collide with occupants, or shift dangerously in the cabin. This situation emphasizes the importance of securing cargo and understanding the risks associated with transporting goods in vehicles. The other options do not accurately describe the phenomenon of a load shift. For instance, the idea that objects remain stable contradicts the very nature of a load shift. Likewise, a load shift does not inherently involve reducing the physical weight of the vehicle or a fuel tank rupture, as these scenarios are related to different aspects of vehicle safety and stability.

8. What is a key factor to assess regarding patient entrapment during extrication?

- A. Exact location of the patient within the vehicle.**
- B. Severity of injuries sustained by the patient.**
- C. Type of vehicle involved in the collision.**
- D. Time elapsed since the collision.**

Assessing the exact location of the patient within the vehicle is crucial during the extrication process because it directly influences the methods and techniques that rescuers will employ. Understanding the patient's position helps responders determine the safest and most efficient way to gain access to the patient while ensuring their safety and minimizing further injury. For instance, if a patient is located in an area of the vehicle that is heavily damaged or pinned, the rescue team must consider stability and potential hazards such as airbag deployment or fuel leakage. The position can affect how rescuers maneuver tools, such as hydraulic cutters or spreaders, and can also influence decisions about patient care such as immobilization and the urgency of extrication. Knowing whether the patient is trapped in a way that compromises their airway or circulation will inform the urgency with which they need to be extricated. In contrast, while the severity of injuries, type of vehicle, and time elapsed since the collision are all relevant factors, they do not directly inform the techniques needed for effective and safe extrication in the same way that the patient's exact location does. The focus on spatial positioning allows responders to prioritize their efforts and equipment during what is often a time-sensitive operation.

9. What should you do first if you arrive at a vehicle fire with a closed hood?

- A. Use a long-handled pry-bar to open the hood and put out the fire with a fire extinguisher.**
- B. Let the fire burn and concentrate on extricating the patient.**
- C. Wet the interior of the vehicle to keep the fire from spreading.**
- D. Discharge a dry chemical fire extinguisher onto the patient's clothing.**

When encountering a vehicle fire with a closed hood, the priority should be to assess the safety of any occupants inside the vehicle and to focus on extricating patients if necessary. In a vehicle fire scenario, the closed hood signifies that the source of the fire could be more extensive or hidden than initially apparent. Opening the hood without proper protection or without ensuring that it is safe to do so can lead to sudden flare-ups, potentially endangering both the rescuer and any occupants. By choosing to let the fire burn and concentrate on extricating the patient, you are prioritizing the safety of the individuals involved. This approach acknowledges that attempting to fight the fire without proper equipment or knowledge might worsen the situation. The focus should remain on securing the well-being of those trapped in the vehicle rather than directly combating the fire at that moment, especially if the fire is significant. Keeping the area around the vehicle clear and monitoring the fire could also provide valuable time until firefighters can arrive to manage the situation effectively. In contrast, options that suggest attempting to extinguish the fire directly or applying chemicals to the patient's clothing could lead to unnecessary risk or further complications. The overall strategy must be patient-centered and safety-focused, thus justifying the choice made in the scenario.

10. Which phase of extrication comes before the other three?

- A. Sizing up the situation**
- B. Recognizing and managing hazards**
- C. Gaining access to the patient**
- D. Preparing for the rescue**

The phase of preparing for the rescue is essential as it sets the foundation for the entire extrication process. This stage involves assessing the situation, organizing resources, and ensuring that safety protocols are in place before any physical actions are taken. Without this preparatory step, responders may face uncontrolled conditions that could jeopardize the safety of both the rescuers and the patients. Proper preparation includes gathering necessary tools, establishing communication among team members, and formulating a strategy based on the evaluation of the scene. All subsequent phases, such as sizing up the situation, recognizing and managing hazards, and gaining access to the patient, rely heavily on the groundwork laid during this initial phase. This systematic approach to rescue preparation is critical for effective and safe extrication.

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://highwaysafetyvehicleextrication.examzify.com>

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