

# National Firefighter Selection Test (NFST) 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

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- 1. What is the best way for Firefighter John to handle the situation when he forgets to bring his \$6.00 for the food fund?**
  - A. John should leave the station quickly and run to the nearest bank.**
  - B. John should place a check mark on the chart and pay for his food later.**
  - C. John should not eat with the rest of the group since he couldn't pay the \$6.00.**
  - D. John should ask another firefighter if he could borrow \$6.00 for the day.**
  
- 2. What is the primary focus of the fire science knowledge section in the NFST?**
  - A. Understanding fire department policies**
  - B. Knowledge of fire behavior and dynamics**
  - C. Learning emergency communication systems**
  - D. Practicing fire extinguishing techniques**
  
- 3. What does the reading comprehension section of the NFST evaluate?**
  - A. Comprehension of literary texts**
  - B. Understanding of emergency response procedures**
  - C. Skills in summarizing narratives**
  - D. Ability to critique written works**
  
- 4. How does the NFST content prepare candidates for real-world firefighting challenges?**
  - A. It focuses solely on theoretical knowledge**
  - B. It prepares candidates for real-world challenges faced in the profession**
  - C. It offers practice tests without practical applications**
  - D. It limits the understanding of firefighting operations**

- 5. What factors are assessed in the ethical judgment of NFST candidates?**
- A. Physical fitness and endurance**
  - B. Decision-making processes reflecting integrity**
  - C. Crisis management simulation experiences**
  - D. Technical skills in firefighting equipment**
- 6. Which group comprises the greatest number of firefighters according to the passage?**
- A. Fire investigators**
  - B. Fire inspectors**
  - C. First line supervisors**
  - D. That information is not contained in the passage.**
- 7. What universal safety practice is heavily emphasized in the NFST?**
- A. Use of warning signals**
  - B. Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)**
  - C. Use of fire extinguishing agents**
  - D. Use of hydration packs**
- 8. Do fire departments employed by the U.S. Department of Defense typically work with neighboring communities?**
- A. True**
  - B. False**
- 9. How does knowledge of rescue operations impact candidate preparation for the NFST?**
- A. It is not relevant to actual firefighting**
  - B. It empowers candidates to handle emergency situations effectively**
  - C. It is only beneficial for technical roles**
  - D. It does not affect candidate performance**

**10. How long should smoke alarms be replaced according to the information?**

- A. every year**
- B. every five years**
- C. every ten years**
- D. every fifteen years**

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## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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1. What is the best way for Firefighter John to handle the situation when he forgets to bring his \$6.00 for the food fund?
  - A. John should leave the station quickly and run to the nearest bank.
  - B. John should place a check mark on the chart and pay for his food later.
  - C. John should not eat with the rest of the group since he couldn't pay the \$6.00.
  - D. John should ask another firefighter if he could borrow \$6.00 for the day.**

The best approach for Firefighter John in this situation is to ask another firefighter if he could borrow \$6.00 for the day. This option demonstrates a sense of teamwork and camaraderie, which are vital components of the firefighting profession. Firefighters often rely on one another for support in both professional and personal situations, and asking for a small loan can foster relationships within the team. By borrowing the money, John can participate in meals with his colleagues, promoting shared experiences that are essential for building morale and camaraderie in a high-stakes environment like firefighting. This option also ensures that he can pay back the loan later, which maintains accountability and strengthens trust among team members. Other options, such as leaving the station to go to a bank, would hinder John's ability to join the group and could lead to a loss of valuable time. Meanwhile, opting not to eat with the team is counterproductive and could alienate him from the group, impacting dynamics negatively. The suggestion to mark a check on the chart for future payment might create unnecessary complications or lead to misunderstandings about accountability for shared expenses.

2. What is the primary focus of the fire science knowledge section in the NFST?
  - A. Understanding fire department policies
  - B. Knowledge of fire behavior and dynamics**
  - C. Learning emergency communication systems
  - D. Practicing fire extinguishing techniques

The primary focus of the fire science knowledge section in the NFST is centered around knowledge of fire behavior and dynamics. This area encompasses the fundamental principles and scientific concepts that drive how fires start, spread, and are extinguished. Understanding fire behavior is crucial for firefighters as it informs them about the characteristics of different types of fires, the materials involved, and how various conditions affect fire development and control. Fire behavior knowledge includes concepts such as the fire triangle (heat, fuel, and oxygen), the stages of combustion, and the various phases of fire development. This foundational knowledge is essential for making informed decisions in emergency situations, enabling firefighters to effectively strategize their approach to containment and rescue. The other options focus on important but distinct aspects of firefighting. Fire department policies pertain to the administrative and procedural aspects of firefighting operations. Emergency communication systems involve the protocols and technologies used to communicate in emergency situations, while practicing extinguishing techniques is more about the application of skills rather than the theoretical understanding. However, without a solid understanding of fire behavior and dynamics, the practical application of extinguishing techniques is less effective, making the knowledge of fire behavior a pivotal focus in the NFST.

### 3. What does the reading comprehension section of the NFST evaluate?

- A. Comprehension of literary texts
- B. Understanding of emergency response procedures**
- C. Skills in summarizing narratives
- D. Ability to critique written works

The reading comprehension section of the NFST evaluates the understanding of emergency response procedures because the test is designed to assess skills that are relevant to the duties of a firefighter. This includes the ability to read, comprehend, and effectively implement procedures critical to emergency responses, such as safety protocols, operational guidelines, and incident management strategies. In the context of firefighting, comprehending these procedures directly impacts a firefighter's performance and safety on the job. Therefore, the focus is not merely on literary comprehension or analyzing narratives, but rather on the ability to interpret and apply information that is vital in high-stakes situations. Understanding emergency response procedures is a practical skill that firefighters need to ensure correct actions are taken during an emergency.

### 4. How does the NFST content prepare candidates for real-world firefighting challenges?

- A. It focuses solely on theoretical knowledge
- B. It prepares candidates for real-world challenges faced in the profession**
- C. It offers practice tests without practical applications
- D. It limits the understanding of firefighting operations

The NFST content is designed to prepare candidates for real-world challenges faced in the firefighting profession by encompassing a wide range of scenarios and situations they are likely to encounter on the job. This approach ensures that candidates not only learn the theoretical aspects of firefighting but also develop the critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary to handle emergencies effectively. By emphasizing practical applications and scenarios, the NFST helps candidates understand the physical, mental, and technical demands of firefighting. This includes aspects such as teamwork, decision-making under pressure, and the ability to apply safety protocols in high-stress environments. This comprehensive training approach equips candidates with the skills and knowledge needed to perform efficiently and safely when faced with the unpredictable nature of fire and rescue situations. In contrast, focusing solely on theoretical knowledge would not provide candidates with the practical skills needed for successful firefighting, and offering practice tests without real-world applications would leave gaps in their preparation. Additionally, limiting the understanding of firefighting operations would be detrimental, as it is crucial for candidates to have a well-rounded grasp of the profession to react appropriately in various scenarios they may encounter in their careers.

**5. What factors are assessed in the ethical judgment of NFST candidates?**

- A. Physical fitness and endurance**
- B. Decision-making processes reflecting integrity**
- C. Crisis management simulation experiences**
- D. Technical skills in firefighting equipment**

Candidates in the National Firefighter Selection Test (NFST) have their ethical judgment evaluated primarily through decision-making processes that reflect integrity. This assessment is crucial for firefighters, as they often face situations that require a strong moral compass and the ability to make swift, judicious decisions under pressure. Evaluating candidates on their integrity ensures that they can handle ethical dilemmas appropriately, prioritize the safety of individuals and communities, and uphold the values of the fire service. This focus on decision-making processes is consistent with the responsibilities of a firefighter, which often involve upholding the law, making critical life-and-death decisions, and being accountable to both the public and the fire department. While physical fitness, crisis management, and technical skills are important components of a firefighter's job, they do not specifically measure the ethical judgment that is so vital in ensuring responsible and trustworthy firefighting practices.

**6. Which group comprises the greatest number of firefighters according to the passage?**

- A. Fire investigators**
- B. Fire inspectors**
- C. First line supervisors**
- D. That information is not contained in the passage.**

The choice indicating that the information is not contained in the passage is correct because it signifies that the passage does not provide specific details regarding the number of firefighters in each group. This means that any comparison or statement about which group has the greatest number of firefighters is not supported by the text. Understanding this ensures that when reading, one recognizes the limits of the information presented and avoids making assumptions based solely on incomplete data. Each of the other options suggests a role within the firefighting profession, but without specific figures or comparisons provided in the passage, one cannot accurately determine which group has the greatest number. Thus, selecting the choice that indicates the absence of that information demonstrates careful reading and comprehension of the content provided.

**7. What universal safety practice is heavily emphasized in the NFST?**

- A. Use of warning signals**
- B. Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)**
- C. Use of fire extinguishing agents**
- D. Use of hydration packs**

The emphasis on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the NFST is grounded in the fundamental principle of safeguarding firefighters against hazards encountered in the line of duty. PPE includes gear such as helmets, gloves, turnout coats and pants, boots, and respiratory protection, all designed to minimize the risk of injuries and exposure to dangerous environments. Personal protective equipment is crucial for ensuring that firefighters can operate safely in high-risk situations such as structure fires, hazardous material incidents, and emergency medical responses. The NFST recognizes the importance of PPE not only in maintaining individual safety but also in enhancing overall team effectiveness during emergency operations. By adhering to established guidelines for PPE usage, firefighters can better protect themselves from thermal injuries, chemical exposure, and mechanical hazards, thereby improving their ability to perform their duties effectively.

**8. Do fire departments employed by the U.S. Department of Defense typically work with neighboring communities?**

- A. True**
- B. False**

Fire departments employed by the U.S. Department of Defense commonly collaborate with neighboring communities. This partnership is essential for various reasons, including mutual aid during large-scale emergencies, sharing resources and best practices, and enhancing overall firefighting capabilities. Such collaborations can include joint training exercises, coordinated response plans, and sharing equipment and personnel during incidents that may affect more than one jurisdiction. By working together, fire departments can ensure a more effective and efficient response to emergencies, ultimately benefiting the safety of the communities they serve. This approach helps build strong relationships and improves preparedness for all involved parties.

**9. How does knowledge of rescue operations impact candidate preparation for the NFST?**

- A. It is not relevant to actual firefighting**
- B. It empowers candidates to handle emergency situations effectively**
- C. It is only beneficial for technical roles**
- D. It does not affect candidate performance**

Knowledge of rescue operations is crucial for candidates preparing for the NFST because it equips them with the essential skills and understanding needed to effectively respond to emergency situations. Firefighters often encounter scenarios where quick decision-making and effective rescue techniques are necessary to save lives. Familiarity with rescue operations enhances a candidate's ability to assess a situation, formulate a strategic response, and execute it efficiently, which is a core component of firefighting duties. When candidates are well-versed in rescue procedures, they not only boost their own confidence, but they also ensure they can work collaboratively with their team to maximize safety and effectiveness in high-pressure environments. This knowledge is applicable across various roles within firefighting, making it an integral part of the preparation process for the NFST. In summary, understanding rescue operations fosters crucial competencies that are indispensable for aspiring firefighters.

**10. How long should smoke alarms be replaced according to the information?**

- A. every year**
- B. every five years**
- C. every ten years**
- D. every fifteen years**

Smoke alarms should be replaced every ten years because over time, the sensors inside them can become less effective at detecting smoke and fire. This lifespan recommendation ensures that the alarms remain reliable and functional in providing adequate safety. As alarms age, their mechanisms may degrade, making it crucial to adhere to this timeline for ensuring optimal performance and protection for occupants in case of a fire. Regular testing of smoke alarms is also advised, but it's important to remember that the entire unit must be replaced after ten years, regardless of whether it appears to be functioning properly or not.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://nationalfirefighterselectiontest.examzify.com>**

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

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