NFPA Portable Fire Extinguishers (NFPA 10) Practice Exam (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. **A low-pressure cylinder contains fire extinguishing agents at a pressure lower than which value?**

   A. 100 psi

   B. 300 psi

   C. 500 psi

   D. 1000 psi

2. **What is the recommended height for mounting fire extinguishers?**

   A. Not more than 3 feet above the floor

   B. Not more than 4 feet above the floor

   C. Not more than 5 feet above the floor

   D. Not more than 6 feet above the floor

3. **What is the minimum rating for portable fire extinguishers required in travel trailers and motor homes?**

   A. 2-A:10-B:C

   B. 4-A:20-B:C

   C. 5-B:C

   D. 10-A:50-B:C

4. **Which of the following is not a justification for condemning a cylinder during a visual examination?**

   A. The extinguisher shows evidence of being burned in a fire

   B. There is pitting under a removable nameplate

   C. The paint on the cylinder is peeling away

   D. The fire extinguisher was used to dispel an insecticide

5. **What type of extinguisher is recommended for flammable metals?**

   A. Class B

   B. Class C

   C. Class D

   D. Class A

6. Test pressure gauges must be capable of being read within what percentage of the test pressure?

A. 0.5%

B. 1%

C. 2%

D. 3%

7. Dry chemical stored pressure extinguishers manufactured prior to what date shall be removed from service at their next maintenance interval?

A. January 1990

B. October 1984

C. March 1985

D. December 1982

8. What is one key feature of portable fire extinguishers?

A. They are heavier than stationary extinguishers

B. They are designed for single-use only

C. They must be accessible in various environments

D. They are only effective against certain types of fires

9. What is NOT a condition that must be met for effective extinguisher use?

A. The extinguisher must be of high capacity

B. The extinguisher must be in accordance to requirements

C. The extinguisher must be the correct type

D. The fire must be discovered while still small

10. What indicates that a fire extinguisher has been discharged?

A. An increase in the pressure gauge

B. A drop in the pressure gauge or a change in weight

C. The extinguisher becomes cold

D. An audible alarm sounds

Answers

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

Explanations

1. A low-pressure cylinder contains fire extinguishing agents at a pressure lower than which value?

A. 100 psi

B. 300 psi

C. 500 psi

D. 1000 psi

A low-pressure cylinder is defined by its operating pressure, which is lower than specific thresholds established in safety standards. For fire extinguishers, a low-pressure cylinder typically operates at pressures below 300 psi. Therefore, identifying the correct threshold is crucial for safety and proper handling. The correct answer indicates that low-pressure cylinders contain extinguishing agents at pressures lower than 500 psi, adhering to guidelines that categorize extinguishers based on their pressurization levels. This standard allows for the safe use, handling, and maintenance of fire extinguishing equipment. Understanding the classification of pressure in fire extinguishing systems is important because it affects everything from usage methods to inspection and maintenance requirements. A cylinder that operates at levels above these classifications (300 psi and above) would typically be considered a high-pressure cylinder and would require different handling protocols.

2. What is the recommended height for mounting fire extinguishers?

A. Not more than 3 feet above the floor

B. Not more than 4 feet above the floor

C. Not more than 5 feet above the floor

D. Not more than 6 feet above the floor

The recommended height for mounting fire extinguishers is not more than 5 feet above the floor. This guideline is established to ensure that extinguishers are easily accessible to all individuals, including those who may be shorter or have limited reach. Installing extinguishers at this height allows for quick retrieval in an emergency situation, maximizing the chances of effectively combating a fire before it escalates. While other options suggest heights that are within reach for many, they exceed the standards set forth by the NFPA. By adhering to the 5-foot guideline, compliance with safety regulations is achieved, and the effectiveness of fire safety measures is enhanced, ensuring that extinguishers serve their intended purpose efficiently.

3. What is the minimum rating for portable fire extinguishers required in travel trailers and motor homes?

A. 2-A:10-B:C

B. 4-A:20-B:C

C. 5-B:C

D. 10-A:50-B:C

The correct answer is based on the established requirements for fire safety in travel trailers and motor homes. Portable fire extinguishers in these settings must meet minimum fire ratings to ensure effective response to various types of fires that might occur due to their unique environment, which includes both flammable materials and potential cooking or heating sources. The minimum rating of 5-B:C for portable fire extinguishers reflects the need to address Class B fires, which can be caused by flammable liquids, and Class C fires, which involve electrical equipment. This rating is suitable for the risks typically associated with travel trailers and motor homes, where these types of fire hazards are more prevalent. Other options provide higher ratings or different class combinations that exceed the minimum necessary safety standard for these vehicles, but a 5-B:C rating is specifically adequate and compliant with the requirements set forth in the NFPA guidelines, ensuring that occupants have the necessary tools to effectively combat smaller fires that could arise in their mobile living spaces.

4. Which of the following is not a justification for condemning a cylinder during a visual examination?

A. The extinguisher shows evidence of being burned in a fire

B. There is pitting under a removable nameplate

C. The paint on the cylinder is peeling away

D. The fire extinguisher was used to dispel an insecticide

The justification for condemning a cylinder during a visual examination focuses on the integrity and safety of the fire extinguisher itself. Peeling paint, while it may indicate cosmetic issues or exposure to environmental factors, does not necessarily compromise the functionality or structural integrity of the cylinder. This means that the extinguisher can still be operational despite the appearance of its exterior. In contrast, evidence of being burned in a fire, pitting under a removable nameplate, or using the extinguisher for substances like insecticide can lead to serious concerns about the cylinder's strength, pressure retention, and overall reliability. These conditions suggest potential damage or contamination that could render the extinguisher ineffective in an emergency scenario. Therefore, the correct choice highlights that cosmetic issues, such as peeling paint, do not justify condemning an extinguisher, as they do not directly impact its ability to perform its critical function.

5. What type of extinguisher is recommended for flammable metals?

A. Class B

B. Class C

C. Class D

D. Class A

For flammable metals, a Class D fire extinguisher is the recommended type. Class D extinguishers are specifically designed to combat fires involving combustible metals such as magnesium, titanium, sodium, and potassium. These types of fires require special extinguishing agents that can effectively suppress the flames without reacting with the burning metal, as the behavior of flammable metals in fire scenarios is distinct from that of other combustible materials. Using the appropriate Class D extinguisher ensures effective suppression of the fire and minimizes the risk of exacerbating the situation through chemical reactions that might occur with other types of agents. In contrast, other types of extinguishers, such as Class A, B, and C, are not suitable for metal fires due to their composition and the nature of the fires they are designed to combat. Class A extinguishers deal with ordinary combustibles (like wood and paper), Class B is for flammable liquids, and Class C is intended for electrical fires. Each is formulated for specific materials and would not be effective or safe for flammable metals, emphasizing the importance of using a Class D extinguisher for such hazardous materials.

6. Test pressure gauges must be capable of being read within what percentage of the test pressure?

A. 0.5%

B. 1%

C. 2%

D. 3%

Test pressure gauges used in conjunction with portable fire extinguishers must be able to accurately indicate the test pressure within a tolerance of 1%. This level of accuracy is critical to ensure that the gauge provides a reliable reading during testing, ensuring safety and compliance with the standards set out in NFPA 10. A tolerance of 1% means that if the test pressure is set at a specific value, the gauge should read within 1% of that value, affirming the integrity and effectiveness of the extinguisher under test conditions. This precision is essential to prevent underestimating or overestimating the pressure, which could lead to either an insufficient or excessive performance of the fire extinguisher, compromising safety standards.

7. Dry chemical stored pressure extinguishers manufactured prior to what date shall be removed from service at their next maintenance interval?

A. January 1990

B. October 1984

C. March 1985

D. December 1982

Dry chemical stored pressure extinguishers manufactured prior to October 1984 must be removed from service at their next maintenance interval due to safety concerns surrounding the propellant and potential malfunctioning of the extinguishing agent. This requirement is based on recommendations made to ensure that older extinguishers, which may not adhere to modern safety standards or have outdated components, are not put into service where they could fail during an emergency. Equipment manufactured before this date may lack essential updates in design or reliability, which can significantly compromise their effectiveness during a fire emergency. Regular maintenance intervals are critical for all fire-fighting equipment to ensure operational safety and reliability; thus, extinguishers made prior to this date require immediate removal from service upon reaching their maintenance interval. This initiative helps maintain a higher standard of fire safety and ensures that only reliable and effective fire extinguishers are available for use.

8. What is one key feature of portable fire extinguishers?

A. They are heavier than stationary extinguishers

B. They are designed for single-use only

C. They must be accessible in various environments

D. They are only effective against certain types of fires

One key feature of portable fire extinguishers is that they must be accessible in various environments. This accessibility is crucial because portable extinguishers are intended to be used in emergency situations where quick action is essential to control or extinguish a fire before it spreads. The NFPA guidelines emphasize that these extinguishers should be placed in locations that are readily available to people, which helps ensure a timely response during a fire incident. This accessibility allows individuals to quickly grab and use the extinguisher when needed, regardless of the setting—whether it's a residential, commercial, or industrial environment. It's also important to ensure that they are visible and marked, minimizing any delay in their use during emergencies. In contrast, while extinguishers may have weight considerations and effectiveness limitations based on the type of fire, the primary focus is ensuring that they are easily reachable and usable when required.

9. What is NOT a condition that must be met for effective extinguisher use?

A. The extinguisher must be of high capacity

B. The extinguisher must be in accordance to requirements

C. The extinguisher must be the correct type

D. The fire must be discovered while still small

The necessity for an extinguisher to have a high capacity is not a condition for effective use. While having an appropriately sized extinguisher matters, it is not the sole determinant of its effectiveness. The key factors center around whether the extinguisher meets specific requirements established by standards such as NFPA 10, whether it is the correct type for the material involved in the fire, and whether the fire is small enough to be managed with a portable extinguisher. The focus of effective extinguisher use should be on having the right equipment that is compliant with safety regulations and is designed for the specific fire class. Furthermore, discovering the fire while it is still small is crucial, as larger fires may be beyond the handling capability of most portable extinguishers, regardless of the extinguisher's capacity. Hence, while having a high-capacity extinguisher can be beneficial, it is not a fundamental condition for effective use in extinguishing a fire.

10. What indicates that a fire extinguisher has been discharged?

A. An increase in the pressure gauge

B. A drop in the pressure gauge or a change in weight

C. The extinguisher becomes cold

D. An audible alarm sounds

A drop in the pressure gauge or a change in weight is a key indicator that a fire extinguisher has been discharged. Fire extinguishers are equipped with pressure gauges that show the status of the extinguisher. When the contents of an extinguisher are released during use, the pressure will usually decrease, signaling that the extinguisher has been activated. Additionally, if the extinguisher is weighed before and after use, a noticeable reduction in weight will also confirm that material has been expelled from the extinguisher. The other indicators mentioned do not reliably signal discharge. An increase in pressure would indicate that the extinguisher is functioning properly instead of having been used. If the extinguisher becomes cold, it does not necessarily correlate with discharge and may occur for other reasons, such as environmental conditions or chemical reactions. Lastly, while an audible alarm can be associated with certain fire safety systems, it is not a direct indicator of a fire extinguisher being discharged. Thus, observing a drop in the pressure gauge or a change in weight is the correct and most direct method to determine if an extinguisher has been used.

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://nfpa-10portablefireextinguisher.examzify.com

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