

NFPA PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS (NFPA 10) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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<https://nfpa-10portablefireextinguisher.examzify.com>



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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. Which type of fire extinguisher does not require a six-year internal maintenance?
 - A. Cartridge operated dry chemical
 - B. Stored pressure dry powder
 - C. Stored pressure halogenated agent
 - D. Stored pressure water
2. What is the minimum travel distance to a 20-B rated extinguisher in an ordinary area?
 - A. 25 ft
 - B. 50 ft
 - C. 75 ft
 - D. 100 ft
3. What does a pressure gauge that shows a reading in the red zone typically indicate?
 - A. The extinguisher is fully charged
 - B. The extinguisher may be over-pressurized
 - C. The extinguisher may not be operational
 - D. The extinguisher is safe for use
4. What type of fires do Class B extinguishers address?
 - A. Electrical fires
 - B. Combustible metals
 - C. Flammable liquids and gases
 - D. Common combustibles
5. "Maintenance" is a _____ examination.
 - A. Routine
 - B. Thorough
 - C. Visual
 - D. Quick

- 6. In what condition should a fire extinguisher's pressure gauge be for it to be considered usable?**
- A. Below the minimum level
 - B. Within the green zone
 - C. Above the red zone
 - D. Outside the temperature range
- 7. For Class K fire extinguishers, what type of device is preferred for effective operation?**
- A. Extended wand type
 - B. Short nozzle type
 - C. Handheld spray
 - D. Standard discharge
- 8. Why should air be vented prior to hydrostatic testing?**
- A. To save on testing costs
 - B. To prevent excessive pressure
 - C. To prevent violent and dangerous failure of the cylinder
 - D. To streamline the testing process
- 9. What should be done if the fire extinguisher's safety pin is missing?**
- A. Store it for future use
 - B. Use it only if necessary
 - C. Replace or repair the extinguisher immediately
 - D. Notify the fire department for assistance
- 10. A label on equipment indicates compliance with what?**
- A. Manufacturer warranty
 - B. Local building codes
 - C. Appropriate standards or performance
 - D. Design specifications

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which type of fire extinguisher does not require a six-year internal maintenance?

- A. Cartridge operated dry chemical
- B. Stored pressure dry powder
- C. Stored pressure halogenated agent
- D. Stored pressure water**

The type of fire extinguisher that does not require a six-year internal maintenance is indeed the stored pressure water extinguisher. According to NFPA 10, stored pressure water extinguishers are generally subject to less stringent maintenance requirements compared to other types like dry chemical extinguishers. One crucial factor is that stored pressure water extinguishers contain water as the extinguishing agent, which does not degrade over time or require the same level of internal inspection that other extinguishing agents might need. This means they can often remain functional without the internal maintenance that dry chemical or halogenated agents require, which may involve inspecting and potentially recharging the units to ensure optimal performance. Understanding the maintenance requirements of different types of extinguishers is essential for proper fire safety management and compliance with regulations.

2. What is the minimum travel distance to a 20-B rated extinguisher in an ordinary area?

- A. 25 ft
- B. 50 ft**
- C. 75 ft
- D. 100 ft

The minimum travel distance to a 20-B rated extinguisher in an ordinary area is established at 50 feet to ensure that individuals working in these environments can quickly access fire extinguishers in the event of a fire. The 20-B rating designates the capacity to handle fires in flammable liquids and is particularly relevant in areas where such materials are present. By setting the maximum allowed distance at 50 feet, NFPA standards aim to streamline response times and enhance safety protocols, making it easier for personnel to reach the extinguisher without unnecessary delay. This standard helps minimize risk and helps ensure that people are equipped to respond to a fire effectively and promptly. In contrast, greater travel distances could lead to increased danger, as individuals may be less likely to approach a fire if the extinguisher is too far away, thus undermining the purpose of having the extinguisher readily accessible.

3. What does a pressure gauge that shows a reading in the red zone typically indicate?

- A. The extinguisher is fully charged
- B. The extinguisher may be over-pressurized
- C. The extinguisher may not be operational**
- D. The extinguisher is safe for use

A pressure gauge that shows a reading in the red zone typically indicates that the extinguisher is either over-pressurized or possibly not operational. It suggests that the pressure within the extinguisher exceeds safe levels, which can render the device unsafe to use. When an extinguisher is over-pressurized, it may function improperly, posing a risk of bursting or failing to release the extinguishing agent correctly when operated. This condition requires immediate attention to ensure the extinguisher is either serviced or replaced to maintain safety standards. In contrast, a reading in the green zone typically indicates that the extinguisher is fully charged and operational, while readings in the yellow zone signal a need for servicing. Thus, a reading in the red zone is a clear indicator that the extinguisher does not meet safety and operational criteria.

4. What type of fires do Class B extinguishers address?

- A. Electrical fires
- B. Combustible metals
- C. Flammable liquids and gases**
- D. Common combustibles

Class B fire extinguishers are specifically designed to combat fires involving flammable liquids and gases. This classification includes substances such as gasoline, oil, grease, paint, solvents, and various gases that can ignite and contribute to a fire. The extinguishing agents in Class B extinguishers work by smothering the fire, removing oxygen, or inhibiting the chemical reaction fueling the fire, making them effective for the volatile nature of the materials involved. Understanding this classification is crucial for ensuring proper fire safety measures and response strategies, especially in environments where flammable liquids and gases are present. Utilizing a Class B extinguisher on these types of fires is essential for effective and safe fire suppression; using inappropriate extinguishing agents on such fires could exacerbate the situation or lead to further hazards.

5. "Maintenance" is a _____ examination.

- A. Routine
- B. Thorough**
- C. Visual
- D. Quick

The term "maintenance" in the context of fire extinguishers refers to a detailed and comprehensive inspection process. This examination is crucial to ensure that fire extinguishers are functioning correctly and are ready for use in the event of a fire emergency. A thorough examination covers all aspects of the extinguisher, including checking for damage, ensuring the pressure is within the appropriate range, examining the physical condition, inspecting the safety seals, and verifying that all components are working as intended. Regular maintenance is mandated by NFPA 10 to help ensure that these life-saving devices are reliable and effective. In contrast, a routine examination may imply a less thorough check, focusing only on basic checks rather than a complete evaluation. A visual inspection, while important, typically involves a less comprehensive assessment than what is required for maintenance. A quick examination might not capture all necessary details that could indicate a need for service or replacement. Therefore, the correct answer highlights the necessity of a detailed and careful approach to maintenance in ensuring the effectiveness and safety of portable fire extinguishers.

6. In what condition should a fire extinguisher's pressure gauge be for it to be considered usable?

- A. Below the minimum level
- B. Within the green zone**
- C. Above the red zone
- D. Outside the temperature range

For a fire extinguisher to be considered usable, the pressure gauge should be within the green zone. This zone indicates that the pressure is at an acceptable level for the functionality of the extinguisher. When the gauge is in the green zone, it confirms that the extinguisher is charged and ready for use in the event of a fire. If the pressure falls below this level, it might not operate effectively, and if it is excessively high, it could indicate overcharging, which may pose a risk upon discharge. Using the pressure gauge correctly is crucial for safety and compliance with fire safety regulations, as fire extinguishers that do not demonstrate proper pressure may not function as intended when needed, potentially leading to hazardous situations. Therefore, ensuring that the pressure gauge remains within the green zone is critical for the reliability and effectiveness of the fire extinguisher.

7. For Class K fire extinguishers, what type of device is preferred for effective operation?

- A. Extended wand type
- B. Short nozzle type**
- C. Handheld spray
- D. Standard discharge

For Class K fire extinguishers, the preferred device for effective operation is the short nozzle type. Class K fires involve cooking oils and fats, which are commonly found in commercial kitchens. The specific design of a short nozzle allows for a more controlled application of the extinguishing agent, which is critical when targeting the burning cooking oil. Using a short nozzle helps to deliver the agent precisely onto the flames while minimizing the risk of splashing or spreading the fire. This method reduces the possibility of flare-ups and ensures that the extinguishing agent can effectively smother the fire and cool the hot surfaces. This precision is particularly important given the volatile nature of these types of fires. While other types like the extended wand or handheld spray might be suitable in different fire scenarios, the unique characteristics of Class K fires necessitate the effective use of a short nozzle to ensure safety and successful fire suppression.

8. Why should air be vented prior to hydrostatic testing?

- A. To save on testing costs
- B. To prevent excessive pressure
- C. To prevent violent and dangerous failure of the cylinder**
- D. To streamline the testing process

Venting air before hydrostatic testing is crucial because it helps to prevent violent and dangerous failure of the cylinder. During hydrostatic testing, the cylinder is filled with water and subjected to high-pressure conditions intended to assess its integrity and ability to hold pressure. If there is air trapped inside the cylinder, it can compress and create pressure conditions that are not uniform. In the event of a failure, the presence of compressed air may turn a standard failure into a catastrophic event, leading to potential fragmentation or a violent rupture. By venting the air, you ensure that only the water is present in the cylinder during testing, which allows for a controlled and safe environment when the cylinder is pressurized. This not only safeguards personnel conducting the test but also prevents damage to equipment and surroundings that could occur from an explosive failure.

9. What should be done if the fire extinguisher's safety pin is missing?

- A. Store it for future use
- B. Use it only if necessary
- C. Replace or repair the extinguisher immediately**
- D. Notify the fire department for assistance

If the safety pin of a fire extinguisher is missing, it is crucial to replace or repair the extinguisher immediately. The safety pin is an essential component that prevents accidental discharge of the extinguisher. Without it, there's a significant risk that the extinguisher could unintentionally discharge, posing a danger to anyone handling it and potentially leading to a failure to use the extinguisher effectively in an emergency. Ensuring that all fire extinguishers are in proper working condition, including having all necessary components like the safety pin, is critical for maintaining safety standards in any environment. This prompt action helps to ensure that the extinguisher is ready for use when needed, adhering to NFPA standards for fire safety and equipment maintenance. Taking such measures reinforces the importance of regular inspections and maintenance of fire safety equipment to ensure preparedness in case of a fire emergency.

10. A label on equipment indicates compliance with what?

- A. Manufacturer warranty
- B. Local building codes
- C. Appropriate standards or performance
- D. Design specifications

The label on equipment indicating compliance with appropriate standards or performance is crucial because it ensures that the equipment meets specific safety and operational criteria established by recognized standards organizations. These standards are developed to ensure reliability and safety in various applications, including fire safety and extinguishing agents. For fire extinguishers, compliance with standards such as those set by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) or Underwriters Laboratories (UL) ensures that the equipment has been tested under rigorous conditions and has been found effective for its intended use. This includes aspects like extinguishing capabilities, ease of use, and safety features, providing confidence to users that the equipment will perform as expected in a fire emergency. By clearly identifying compliance with these standards, the label serves as a validation of quality, helping users and inspectors to quickly ascertain the equipment's reliability without needing to assess individual design specifications or manufacturer warranties.

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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://nfpa-10portablefireextinguisher.examzify.com>

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

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