

North Carolina Fire Investigation Technician (FIT) Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

- 1. What kind of evidence can an eyewitness provide in the absence of physical evidence for establishing origin?**
 - A. The entire sequence of events**
 - B. Reliable evidence of early stages**
 - C. In-depth technical details**
 - D. Witness accounts of fire suppression efforts**
- 2. What is calcination in the context of fire investigations?**
 - A. The melting of metals**
 - B. A chemical change due to extreme heat**
 - C. A fire effect in gypsum products**
 - D. The burning of organic materials**
- 3. Why is the melting temperature of solid materials important to fire investigators?**
 - A. It indicates the color of the burned material**
 - B. It helps determine the severity of the fire**
 - C. It shows how many items were burned**
 - D. It specifies the age of the material**
- 4. What effect does moisture have on vegetation with respect to fire?**
 - A. Increases flammability**
 - B. Decreases flammability**
 - C. Has no effect**
 - D. Transforms vegetation into fire retardant**
- 5. Which of the following is NOT a criteria for a confined space according to OSHA?**
 - A. The space must allow continuous employee occupancy**
 - B. The space must not limit means of entry or exit**
 - C. The space must allow bodily entry for work**
 - D. The space must be designed for specific tasks**

- 6. What does "oxidation" in the context of fire investigation refer to?**
- A. A chemical reaction releasing energy**
 - B. A method of fire prevention**
 - C. The process of burning fuel**
 - D. The formation of charred materials**
- 7. Vehicle identification begins with which of the following?**
- A. The last service date**
 - B. Owner's registration details**
 - C. Make, model, and year**
 - D. Insurance policy number**
- 8. Which of the following does NOT qualify as physical evidence?**
- A. Evidence from a security camera**
 - B. A witness statement**
 - C. Fire debris**
 - D. Blood samples**
- 9. The term 'flashpoint' refers to ____.**
- A. The temperature at which a gas ignites**
 - B. The temperature at which a liquid gives off enough vapor to ignite**
 - C. The heat required to sustain combustion**
 - D. The point of highest heat in a fire**
- 10. Forensic and legal requirements mandate that evidence be:**
- A. Stored indefinitely without documentation**
 - B. Kept in an undisclosed location**
 - C. Positively identified and maintained in a chain of custody**
 - D. Destroyable after a certain period**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What kind of evidence can an eyewitness provide in the absence of physical evidence for establishing origin?

- A. The entire sequence of events**
- B. Reliable evidence of early stages**
- C. In-depth technical details**
- D. Witness accounts of fire suppression efforts**

Eyewitnesses can play a crucial role in fire investigation, particularly when physical evidence is scarce or compromised. In such cases, reliable evidence of the early stages of a fire is valuable as it can help investigators understand how the fire began and developed before it became overwhelming. Eyewitnesses can recount specific details about what they observed in the initial moments of the fire, such as the presence of smoke, flames, or unusual occurrences. This information contributes significantly to reconstructing the circumstances surrounding the ignition and initial growth phases of the fire. The other options, while they may contain elements of information that an eyewitness can provide, do not specifically focus on the key role of establishing the origin of the fire. The entire sequence of events may include too much information beyond the immediate origin. In-depth technical details would typically be outside the realm of an average eyewitness's knowledge and ability to provide, as these require specialized training. Lastly, witness accounts of fire suppression efforts can certainly be informative, but they do not directly address the origin of the fire itself, which is the primary focus of the question. Therefore, reliable evidence of the early stages is the most pertinent type of eyewitness testimony when establishing the origin of the fire in the absence of physical evidence.

2. What is calcination in the context of fire investigations?

- A. The melting of metals**
- B. A chemical change due to extreme heat**
- C. A fire effect in gypsum products**
- D. The burning of organic materials**

Calcination refers specifically to a chemical process that occurs when a material, typically a mineral or an inorganic substance, is subjected to extreme heat, resulting in the thermal decomposition of that material. This process can significantly affect the physical properties of that material, often resulting in a change in its structure. In the context of fire investigations, calcination is particularly relevant when examining gypsum products, such as drywall or plaster. When exposed to high temperatures during a fire, gypsum undergoes calcination, which causes it to lose water and change its appearance. This can lead investigators to identify areas of severe heat exposure, which can aid in determining the fire's behavior and origin. Understanding calcination helps investigators assess the extent of damage and gauge the fire's intensity in different materials. While other processes such as metal melting, organic burning, and various chemical changes occur in fires, calcination is uniquely associated with the influence of heat on gypsum and similar materials, making it an important concept in fire investigations.

3. Why is the melting temperature of solid materials important to fire investigators?

- A. It indicates the color of the burned material**
- B. It helps determine the severity of the fire**
- C. It shows how many items were burned**
- D. It specifies the age of the material**

The melting temperature of solid materials is important to fire investigators because it helps determine the severity of the fire. Understanding the melting point allows investigators to assess the conditions that the material was subjected to during the fire, including the temperature reached. Higher temperatures may indicate a more severe fire, while lower melting temperatures can suggest a less intense fire. This information is crucial in piecing together the events leading up to and during the fire incident, as it can provide insights into the heat source and the materials involved in the fire. Additionally, knowing which materials melted can help in identifying the characteristics of the fire and its potential causes.

4. What effect does moisture have on vegetation with respect to fire?

- A. Increases flammability**
- B. Decreases flammability**
- C. Has no effect**
- D. Transforms vegetation into fire retardant**

Moisture plays a crucial role in the flammability of vegetation, primarily acting to decrease it. When vegetation is adequately hydrated, the presence of moisture within plant tissues inhibits the combustion process. Wet vegetation requires significantly more heat to ignite because the moisture content absorbs heat energy that would otherwise be used for combustion. In essence, when plants are moist, their ability to catch fire and sustain burning is greatly reduced. This is why during times of high humidity and rainfall, the chances of wildfires are typically lower compared to dry conditions where the moisture content in vegetation is minimal. Consequently, as moisture levels rise, the overall flammability of vegetation decreases, making it less susceptible to ignition and spreading of fire.

5. Which of the following is NOT a criteria for a confined space according to OSHA?

- A. The space must allow continuous employee occupancy**
- B. The space must not limit means of entry or exit**
- C. The space must allow bodily entry for work**
- D. The space must be designed for specific tasks**

The criteria for a confined space, as defined by OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration), includes specific requirements regarding the nature of the space and its use. One of the key aspects is that a confined space is not intended for continuous employee occupancy. This means that while a person can enter the space to perform work, it is not an area where they would stay for long periods. The definition emphasizes that the space must indeed allow for bodily entry and must not have restrictions on entry or exit to facilitate safe working conditions. However, the requirement for continuous occupancy is specifically not a criterion. Spaces designed for intermittent tasks or activities can still be classified as confined spaces as long as they meet the other OSHA-defined criteria. Therefore, the correct choice aligns with the fundamental OSHA regulation that a confined space cannot be characterized as one allowing continuous employee occupancy.

6. What does "oxidation" in the context of fire investigation refer to?

- A. A chemical reaction releasing energy**
- B. A method of fire prevention**
- C. The process of burning fuel**
- D. The formation of charred materials**

Oxidation, in the context of fire investigation, specifically refers to a chemical reaction that occurs when a substance combines with oxygen, leading to the release of energy, often in the form of heat and light. This process is fundamental to combustion, which is the primary reaction that occurs during a fire. When fuel oxidizes, it produces products such as carbon dioxide and water vapor as well as releasing energy that can sustain the fire or cause it to spread. The other options relate to aspects of fire or related concepts but do not define oxidation accurately. While the process of burning fuel is indeed a result of oxidation, it does not encompass the entire chemical reaction involved. Methods of fire prevention focus on measures to stop fires from starting, which is not connected to the chemical definition of oxidation. Lastly, the formation of charred materials occurs as a result of combustion and oxidation, but it is a product of burning rather than a definition of the oxidation process itself. Thus, understanding oxidation as a chemical reaction that releases energy clarifies its crucial role in fire dynamics.

7. Vehicle identification begins with which of the following?

- A. The last service date
- B. Owner's registration details
- C. Make, model, and year**
- D. Insurance policy number

Vehicle identification commonly begins with the make, model, and year of the vehicle. These fundamental characteristics are essential for distinguishing one vehicle from another, as they provide key information that is universally recognized and used for identification purposes. Knowing the make and model gives investigators the initial framework needed to gather more specific details about the vehicle involved in an incident, including its history, specifications, and any related documentation. The other options, while they may contain relevant information, are not primary identifiers when it comes to initially recognizing and cataloging a vehicle. The last service date does not provide necessary details about the vehicle itself, and insurance policy numbers and owner registration details are more administrative aspects that can be referenced after establishing basic identification through the make, model, and year.

8. Which of the following does NOT qualify as physical evidence?

- A. Evidence from a security camera
- B. A witness statement**
- C. Fire debris
- D. Blood samples

Physical evidence refers to tangible objects that can be collected and analyzed to help establish facts in a case. It includes items that can be physically examined, tested, and preserved, which play a crucial role in investigations, particularly in the context of fire investigations. Witness statements, while valuable for providing context and perspective on an incident, are not physical evidence. They are subjective accounts gathered from individuals who observed the incident and cannot be physically analyzed or tested in the same way as objects can. Therefore, witness statements rely on interpretation and are considered testimonial evidence rather than physical evidence. In contrast, evidence from a security camera, fire debris, and blood samples are all physical in nature, allowing investigators to utilize forensic techniques to extract meaningful data that contributes to understanding the fire's cause, effects, and potential criminal activity surrounding the incident.

9. The term 'flashpoint' refers to ____.

- A. The temperature at which a gas ignites
- B. The temperature at which a liquid gives off enough vapor to ignite**
- C. The heat required to sustain combustion
- D. The point of highest heat in a fire

The term 'flashpoint' is specifically defined as the temperature at which a liquid gives off enough vapor to ignite in the presence of an ignition source. This definition is crucial in the context of fire safety and investigation, as it helps in identifying the flammability and potential hazards of various liquids. Understanding the flashpoint of a material can aid in assessing fire risks and determining safe handling and storage practices. In contrast, the other options refer to different concepts related to combustion and fire dynamics. The ignition of a gas relates to a different measure, referred to as the ignition temperature, while the heat required to sustain combustion is known as the heat of combustion or the sustained combustion temperature. The point of highest heat in a fire does not correlate directly with the flashpoint but rather pertains to flame dynamics and temperature profiling within the fire environment. Understanding these distinctions further emphasizes the specific nature of what flashpoint indicates in fire investigations.

10. Forensic and legal requirements mandate that evidence be:

- A. Stored indefinitely without documentation
- B. Kept in an undisclosed location
- C. Positively identified and maintained in a chain of custody**
- D. Destroyable after a certain period

Positively identifying evidence and maintaining it in a chain of custody is crucial for the integrity of forensic investigations. This process ensures that the evidence is accurately linked to the crime scene and the individuals involved in the case. A well-documented chain of custody establishes a clear path of who handled the evidence and when, preventing any tampering or contamination. This meticulous documentation is vital in legal proceedings, as it helps to establish the credibility of the evidence presented in court. In legal systems, evidence must be tracked from the moment it is collected until it is presented in court, ensuring that it is unaltered and reliable. Failing to maintain this chain can lead to challenges regarding the evidence's admissibility and authenticity, potentially undermining the entire prosecution or defense case. The other options highlight practices that could compromise the integrity of evidence. Storing evidence without documentation or in undisclosed locations would make it difficult to verify its authenticity and reliability. Additionally, evidence that is deemed destroyable after a certain period does not consider the varying legal requirements and potential ongoing investigations, which may necessitate the retention of evidence beyond arbitrary time frames. Therefore, maintaining a clear and documented chain of custody is essential for ensuring the proper handling and use of evidence in forensic and legal contexts.

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://ncfit.examzify.com>

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