

OCFA SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED 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. 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. After connecting a new cylinder and slowly opening the valve, what should you verify before resuming work?**
 - A. Confirm air flow and gauge reading.
 - B. Confirm the color of the valve handle.
 - C. Confirm the operator's watch time.
 - D. Confirm the alignment of the passer.
- 2. Which component on the Mask Mounted Regulator (MMR) is used to purge air from the system?**
 - A. Spray Bar
 - B. Manual Purge Valve
 - C. Air Saver Switch
 - D. Regulator Gasket
- 3. What is bailout air and when might it be used (if equipped)?**
 - A. An auxiliary independent air source (bailout cylinder) that can be used if primary air is depleted; only used by trained personnel with appropriate equipment.
 - B. A backup regulator that automatically takes over when the primary regulator fails.
 - C. A secondary air filter designed to extend filter life.
 - D. A small handheld pump used to briefly prime the system.
- 4. What protects the cylinder gauge in the valve assembly?**
 - A. Metal guard
 - B. Elastomeric rubber bumper guard
 - C. Plastic cover
 - D. Glass shield
- 5. What is the service life of an SCBA cylinder?**
 - A. 15 years
 - B. 5 years
 - C. 10 years
 - D. 20 years

- 6. How should you address lens fogging on the facepiece?**
- A. Use Approved Anti-Fog Measures
 - B. Remove the Facepiece to Defog
 - C. Hold Your Breath to Minimize Fogging
 - D. Increase Breathing Rate
- 7. Which factor is NOT listed as influencing SCBA air consumption?**
- A. Metabolic rate
 - B. Temperature
 - C. Fuel type of machinery
 - D. Environmental conditions
- 8. What is the recommended approach to avoid staying inside the air supply during a hot zone?**
- A. Avoid extended stays beyond air supply.
 - B. Stay as long as needed regardless of air.
 - C. Return to the structure immediately.
 - D. Ignore the air supply and push through.
- 9. Which NFPA standards govern SCBA and PASS devices used by firefighters?**
- A. NFPA 1981 for open-circuit SCBA; NFPA 1982 for PASS; NFPA 1971 for protective ensembles
 - B. NFPA 1983 for SCBA; NFPA 1980 for PASS
 - C. NFPA 1981 governs open-circuit SCBA; NFPA 1982 governs PASS; NFPA 1971 covers protective ensembles
 - D. NFPA 600 covers all PPE
- 10. What is the first action in the field cylinder change procedure?**
- A. Pause work and move to a safe area with a buddy.
 - B. Close valve and release residual air.
 - C. Inspect for damage or leaks.
 - D. Pause work, move to a safe area with a buddy; close valve; release residual air; disconnect old cylinder; inspect for damage or leaks; connect new cylinder; slowly open valve; confirm air flow and gauge reading; secure and resume.

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. After connecting a new cylinder and slowly opening the valve, what should you verify before resuming work?

- A. Confirm air flow and gauge reading.**
- B. Confirm the color of the valve handle.
- C. Confirm the operator's watch time.
- D. Confirm the alignment of the passer.

When you connect a fresh cylinder, the most important check is to confirm that air is actually flowing and that the gauges reflect normal pressure before you proceed. Opening the cylinder valve slowly allows the regulator to prime and lets you observe whether air is being delivered to the facepiece. You should see the high pressure cylinder gauge rise to the expected operating range and you should detect airflow at the facepiece. If there's no flow or the gauges show an abnormal or no pressure, there could be a leak, a mis-seated cylinder, or a regulator problem, and you should stop and address that before continuing. The color of the valve handle, the operator's watch time, or the alignment of any passer do not verify that the air supply is ready and safe, so they aren't sufficient checks for resuming work.

2. Which component on the Mask Mounted Regulator (MMR) is used to purge air from the system?

- A. Spray Bar
- B. Manual Purge Valve**
- C. Air Saver Switch
- D. Regulator Gasket

Purging air from the MMR is done with the manual purge valve. This valve is opened to vent air from the regulator path to the outside, clearing the line of moisture, debris, or stale air so the system is clean and ready for breathing when you begin use. The other parts aren't used to vent the system: the spray bar is not the vent path, the air saver switch is there to conserve air by modifying flow, and the regulator gasket is just a seal.

3. What is bailout air and when might it be used (if equipped)?

- A. An auxiliary independent air source (bailout cylinder) that can be used if primary air is depleted; only used by trained personnel with appropriate equipment.**
- B. A backup regulator that automatically takes over when the primary regulator fails.
- C. A secondary air filter designed to extend filter life.
- D. A small handheld pump used to briefly prime the system.

Bailout air is an auxiliary independent air source—usually a bailout cylinder with its own regulator—carried by a firefighter so breathable air is available if the primary SCBA air is depleted or the situation makes the main supply unreliable. It lets you pause, retreat to safety, or complete a critical move in an IDLH environment without depending on the main air supply, and it requires proper training and equipped gear to use correctly. This isn't simply a backup regulator that automatically takes over, nor a secondary air filter or a handheld pump; those don't provide a separate breathing air source. Bailout gear is only used by personnel who are trained and equipped to deploy it, and it's contingent on department policy and availability.

4. What protects the cylinder gauge in the valve assembly?

- A. Metal guard
- B. Elastomeric rubber bumper guard**
- C. Plastic cover
- D. Glass shield

The gauge on the valve assembly is a delicate, high-precision indicator that needs protection from impacts and rough handling. An elastomeric rubber bumper guard around the gauge acts as a cushion, absorbing shocks if the cylinder is bumped, bumped against equipment, or set down on hard surfaces. This energy absorption helps prevent damage to the gauge face and internal components, keeps the readings reliable, and reduces wear from vibration during use. Rubber is chosen for its combination of shock absorption, durability, and resistance to field conditions, making it the best protective solution. Rigid metal guards would transfer blows and could damage the gauge; a plastic cover or glass shield wouldn't absorb impacts as effectively and could be more prone to breakage.

5. What is the service life of an SCBA cylinder?

- A. 15 years**
- B. 5 years
- C. 10 years
- D. 20 years

The service life is the maximum safe period a SCBA cylinder can be used before retirement due to aging of the materials. For most fire-service cylinders, that service life is 15 years from the date of manufacture. This retirement age is separate from hydrostatic testing, which is typically required every 5 years to check cylinder integrity; a cylinder can pass tests but still reach its 15-year limit. Once the 15-year mark is reached, the cylinder must be retired regardless of its test results. Always check the manufacture date stamped on the cylinder and follow department policies, since some cylinders or jurisdictions may have different retirement ages.

6. How should you address lens fogging on the facepiece?

- A. Use Approved Anti-Fog Measures**
- B. Remove the Facepiece to Defog
- C. Hold Your Breath to Minimize Fogging
- D. Increase Breathing Rate

Fogging happens when the warm, moist air you exhale inside the facepiece condenses on the cooler lens, reducing visibility. The best way to address this is to use approved anti-fog measures that are specifically designed for SCBA lenses and approved by your department or the manufacturer. This usually means applying an approved anti-fog product to the inside of the lens and keeping the facepiece clean, following the product directions, and ensuring a proper seal so warm air doesn't leak toward the lens. Using these measures helps maintain a clear view without compromising the air supply. Removing the facepiece to defog would break the air supply and safety protection in hazardous environments, so it's not an option. Holding your breath isn't a usable solution and won't prevent fogging, and increasing your breathing rate tends to increase moisture and make fogging worse.

7. Which factor is NOT listed as influencing SCBA air consumption?

- A. Metabolic rate
- B. Temperature
- C. Fuel type of machinery**
- D. Environmental conditions

Air usage from an SCBA is determined by what your body needs to breathe and by the conditions that affect breathing, not by the kind of machinery burning nearby. When you work harder, your metabolic rate rises, you breathe more quickly and with greater depth, and you'll use air from the cylinder faster. Temperature and other environmental conditions influence breathing effort and comfort—extreme heat or cold can raise perceived exertion or irritate the airways, leading to increased air consumption. The fuel type of machinery doesn't change your physiological demand or how your regulator delivers air, so it doesn't influence the rate at which you use SCBA air.

8. What is the recommended approach to avoid staying inside the air supply during a hot zone?

- A. Avoid extended stays beyond air supply.**
- B. Stay as long as needed regardless of air.
- C. Return to the structure immediately.
- D. Ignore the air supply and push through.

Managing air supply in a hot zone means planning your actions so you can exit safely before your air runs out. The best approach is to avoid extended stays beyond the air supply, so you continually monitor remaining air, set up a timely egress, and keep a safety buffer in case conditions change or delays occur. This keeps you from being trapped if visibility or heat worsens and ensures you have a route back to safety with air to spare. Other options push you to stay longer than your air allows, push through without regard to air status, or assume you'll return immediately without considering the needed conditions for a safe exit, all of which compromises safety in a hazardous environment.

9. Which NFPA standards govern SCBA and PASS devices used by firefighters?

- A. NFPA 1981 for open-circuit SCBA; NFPA 1982 for PASS; NFPA 1971 for protective ensembles
- B. NFPA 1983 for SCBA; NFPA 1980 for PASS
- C. NFPA 1981 governs open-circuit SCBA; NFPA 1982 governs PASS; NFPA 1971 covers protective ensembles**
- D. NFPA 600 covers all PPE

Fighting fires relies on specialized gear each governed by its own NFPA standard to ensure performance and compatibility. The open-circuit self-contained breathing apparatus is defined by NFPA 1981, covering the respiratory equipment firefighters actually wear and use in the field. The PASS device—the personal alert safety system that signals if a firefighter is immobile or in distress—is defined by NFPA 1982. The protective turnout ensembles—the coat, pants, gloves, helmet, boots, and related gear—are governed by NFPA 1971, which sets the design and performance requirements for structural firefighting PPE. Other NFPA standards, such as NFPA 1983 or NFPA 1980, cover different equipment or areas, and NFPA 600 does not set PPE requirements. So the trio of NFPA 1981, NFPA 1982, and NFPA 1971 is the correct grouping for SCBA, PASS, and protective ensembles.

10. What is the first action in the field cylinder change procedure?

- A. Pause work and move to a safe area with a buddy.
- B. Close valve and release residual air.
- C. Inspect for damage or leaks.
- D. Pause work, move to a safe area with a buddy; close valve; release residual air; disconnect old cylinder; inspect for damage or leaks; connect new cylinder; slowly open valve; confirm air flow and gauge reading; secure and resume.**

Safety always comes first in field cylinder changes. The first action is to pause work and move to a safe area with a buddy. This establishes a controlled, monitored space where you're out of immediate hazards and have a partner to assist if something goes wrong or you need help with the air supply. After that safe placement, you isolate the system by closing the valve to stop any further gas flow, then release residual air to depressurize the line. With the system depressurized, you disconnect the old cylinder and inspect for damage or leaks. If everything looks good, you connect the new cylinder, slowly reopen the valve to repressurize, and confirm proper air flow and gauge readings. Finally, secure the new cylinder and resume work. This sequence minimizes risk and ensures the new cylinder is delivering air correctly.

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://ocfascba.examzify.com>

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

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