

# OSFM Basic Firefighter Operations (BFO) Module A Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

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- 1. How often should generators be tested for safety?**
  - A. Monthly**
  - B. Weekly or more**
  - C. Annually**
  - D. Bi-annually**
- 2. What is the typical range in length for a straight/wall ladder?**
  - A. 8 to 12 feet**
  - B. 12 to 39 feet**
  - C. 12 to 24 feet**
  - D. 20 to 30 feet**
- 3. What is smoke composed of?**
  - A. Gas only**
  - B. Only liquid vapors**
  - C. Mixture of solid particles, liquid vapors, and gases**
  - D. Only solid particles**
- 4. Which of the following describes a non-load bearing wall?**
  - A. Wall that supports structural weight**
  - B. Wall that is always an interior wall**
  - C. Wall that does not support structural weight**
  - D. Wall with a maximum height of 12 stories**
- 5. What is meant by division of labor in a team setting?**
  - A. Assigning all tasks to one person for efficiency**
  - B. Dividing large jobs into smaller, manageable tasks**
  - C. Creating separate teams for different jobs**
  - D. Allocating resources for maximum output**
- 6. What role does the liaison serve in incident command?**
  - A. Overseeing finance and administration**
  - B. Providing information to the public**
  - C. Coordinating between agencies and stakeholders**
  - D. Managing operational risks**

- 7. What is one component of ladders according to fire safety standards?**
- A. Base Section**
  - B. Rung Support**
  - C. Safety Rail**
  - D. Counterweight**
- 8. What is defined as the lowest temperature at which a substance ignites spontaneously?**
- A. Flame point**
  - B. Auto ignition temperature**
  - C. Flash point**
  - D. Spontaneous ignition temperature**
- 9. What percentage of the atmospheric composition is nitrogen?**
- A. 21%**
  - B. 78%**
  - C. 1%**
  - D. 25%**
- 10. What characterizes Type I Fire Resistive construction?**
- A. Structural members are combustible**
  - B. Structural members are noncombustible or limited combustible**
  - C. Heat buildup is uncontrolled**
  - D. It is made primarily of wood**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. How often should generators be tested for safety?**

- A. Monthly
- B. Weekly or more**
- C. Annually
- D. Bi-annually

Testing generators for safety on a weekly or more frequent basis is essential to ensure they are operational and ready for use when needed. Regular testing allows firefighters and other personnel to identify potential issues before they can lead to larger problems, such as equipment failure during an emergency situation. Weekly testing is particularly important in environments where generators may be used for critical functions during power outages or emergencies. This practice helps maintain operational readiness and reliability, as well as ensuring that safety features and functions are working correctly. Regular checks can include inspecting fuel levels, assessing electrical connections, and performing functionality tests, all of which help to prevent malfunctions. In contrast, less frequent testing, such as monthly, bi-annually, or annually, may not be sufficient to catch issues that could arise with the generator. Such infrequent testing increases the risk of encountering a serious problem in an emergency situation where the generator is needed the most. Thus, weekly or more frequent testing is the recommended practice to maintain safety and readiness.

**2. What is the typical range in length for a straight/wall ladder?**

- A. 8 to 12 feet
- B. 12 to 39 feet
- C. 12 to 24 feet**
- D. 20 to 30 feet

The typical range in length for a straight or wall ladder is aligned with standard firefighter equipment practices. Straight ladders, which are fixed in angle and can be leaned against structures, tend to have lengths that allow for quick access to buildings, roofs, and elevated areas. The range of 12 to 24 feet provides versatility for various firefighting and rescue operations, striking a balance between maneuverability and reach. Firefighters often require ladders within this length range to effectively reach second and third stories of buildings, making them ideal for residential and smaller commercial structures. The dimensions ensure that firefighters can handle the ladders safely while still being able to access essential sections of buildings during emergencies. Other lengths either exceed the typical residential needs or fall short for effective deployment in most situations that call for straight ladders in fire operations.

### 3. What is smoke composed of?

- A. Gas only
- B. Only liquid vapors
- C. Mixture of solid particles, liquid vapors, and gases**
- D. Only solid particles

Smoke is a complex mixture primarily composed of solid particles, liquid vapors, and gases. When materials combust, they do not simply produce a single substance; instead, they generate a variety of byproducts. The solid particles in smoke come from unburned fuel or incomplete combustion, while the liquid vapors result from the vaporization of certain compounds during the burning process. In addition to these, various gases are released, including carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and other chemicals, depending on the nature of the burning material. This combination of components makes smoke a hazardous substance, as each of these elements can pose serious health risks when inhaled or when exposed to skin. Understanding the composition of smoke is crucial for firefighters and first responders, as it directly impacts tactics for fire suppression and the protection of occupants in smoke-filled environments. Knowledge of what smoke consists of also informs the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and respiratory protection to mitigate the dangers associated with smoke inhalation.

### 4. Which of the following describes a non-load bearing wall?

- A. Wall that supports structural weight
- B. Wall that is always an interior wall
- C. Wall that does not support structural weight**
- D. Wall with a maximum height of 12 stories

A non-load bearing wall is defined as a wall that does not support any structural weight from above it. Its primary function is to separate spaces and provide privacy or aesthetics, rather than to bear loads like beams, roofs, or floors. Non-load bearing walls are often used in interior settings, allowing for more flexibility in the arrangement of rooms and spaces. In contrast, walls that support structural weight are classified as load-bearing walls, and they are integral to the stability of a building. While many non-load bearing walls are indeed interior, this is not a definitive characteristic since exterior non-load bearing walls can also exist. The height parameter mentioned in one of the other choices is irrelevant to the definition of a non-load bearing wall, as these walls can vary greatly in height, and there is no standard maximum height that applies universally. Thus, the distinguishing characteristic of a non-load bearing wall is its lack of structural support, which makes the correct choice unmistakably clear.

**5. What is meant by division of labor in a team setting?**

- A. Assigning all tasks to one person for efficiency**
- B. Dividing large jobs into smaller, manageable tasks**
- C. Creating separate teams for different jobs**
- D. Allocating resources for maximum output**

The concept of division of labor in a team setting refers to breaking down larger tasks or projects into smaller, more manageable components. This approach allows individual team members to focus on specific tasks that align with their skills and strengths, which can lead to improved efficiency and productivity. By assigning smaller, well-defined roles to different members, the team can work simultaneously on various aspects of a project, increasing overall progress and reducing the time needed to complete the job. This method is particularly effective in complex situations, such as firefighting operations, where tasks can be intricate and require different expertise. It helps ensure that each aspect of a job is addressed thoroughly while also allowing team members to collaborate effectively. The result is a smoother workflow and more organized approach to achieving the team's goals.

**6. What role does the liaison serve in incident command?**

- A. Overseeing finance and administration**
- B. Providing information to the public**
- C. Coordinating between agencies and stakeholders**
- D. Managing operational risks**

The liaison in incident command plays a crucial role in coordinating between various agencies and stakeholders involved in an incident. This function is essential for ensuring effective communication and collaboration, enabling the incident commander to work with various organizations such as fire departments, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and other governmental and non-governmental entities. The liaison officer facilitates the sharing of information and resources, helping to align efforts and strategies across jurisdictional lines. This coordination is vital during multi-agency responses, as it helps to avoid duplication of efforts and fosters a unified approach to incident management. By maintaining clear and continuous communication with all involved parties, the liaison ensures that all stakeholders are on the same page, ultimately leading to a more efficient and effective overall response to the incident. This position is distinct from the other roles mentioned, such as overseeing finance and administration or managing operational risks, which are focused on specific aspects of incident management but do not encompass the broader, integrative function provided by the liaison officer.

**7. What is one component of ladders according to fire safety standards?**

- A. Base Section**
- B. Rung Support**
- C. Safety Rail**
- D. Counterweight**

The base section is a critical component of ladders according to fire safety standards because it provides stability and support while the ladder is in use. A well-constructed base section ensures that the ladder remains firmly planted on the ground, reducing the risk of slipping or tipping over during operations. This aspect is crucial for firefighter safety, especially when the ladder is extended to reach higher locations or during rescue operations. The design of the base section typically includes features that enhance its grip and stability, making it an essential part of the ladder's overall functionality.

**8. What is defined as the lowest temperature at which a substance ignites spontaneously?**

- A. Flame point**
- B. Auto ignition temperature**
- C. Flash point**
- D. Spontaneous ignition temperature**

The correct answer is auto ignition temperature, which refers to the lowest temperature at which a substance will ignite and sustain combustion without an external ignition source, such as a spark or flame. At this specific temperature, the heat generated by the material itself through mechanisms like compression or reaction with atmospheric oxygen is sufficient to initiate combustion. Understanding this concept is crucial in fire safety and prevention efforts, as materials may not require a direct source of ignition to catch fire; rather, they can self-ignite when exposed to sufficient heat for a prolonged period. The auto ignition temperature is a key parameter in assessing the flammability and risk of materials in various environments. In contrast, the other terms provided describe different ignition characteristics. The flash point is the lowest temperature at which the vapor of a flammable substance can ignite in the presence of an ignition source, but it does not indicate spontaneous combustion without such a source. The flame point, while closely related, refers specifically to the temperature at which a flame is produced upon ignition of a vapor-air mixture. Spontaneous ignition temperature is often used interchangeably with auto ignition temperature, but it may not be as widely recognized in technical definitions as the latter. Overall, auto ignition temperature is the most precise term describing the phenomenon of spontaneous

**9. What percentage of the atmospheric composition is nitrogen?**

- A. 21%
- B. 78%**
- C. 1%
- D. 25%

The correct response is based on the fact that nitrogen constitutes approximately 78% of Earth's atmosphere by volume. This percentage reflects the significant role nitrogen plays in maintaining the balance of gases that are vital for life. It is relatively inert and does not easily react with other elements, which helps to stabilize the atmosphere and provides a buffer for the more reactive gases. Understanding the composition of atmospheric gases is essential in fields such as firefighting and other environmental science areas, as it impacts fire behavior and the behavior of gases in different conditions. The other percentages listed do not accurately represent nitrogen's proportion in the atmosphere, as 21% is the approximate percentage of oxygen, while 1% and 25% do not correlate with known atmospheric gas concentrations.

**10. What characterizes Type I Fire Resistive construction?**

- A. Structural members are combustible
- B. Structural members are noncombustible or limited combustible**
- C. Heat buildup is uncontrolled
- D. It is made primarily of wood

Type I Fire Resistive construction is characterized by structural members that are noncombustible or have limited combustibility. This type of construction is designed to withstand high temperatures without contributing to the spread of fire, making it particularly effective in providing fire protection for the building's structural elements. The materials used—like steel and reinforced concrete—are resistant to fire and are specifically selected to limit the chances of combustion during a fire event. This construction type is crucial for high-rise buildings and other facilities where fire safety and the integrity of the structure during a fire are paramount. The use of noncombustible materials helps ensure that the building can maintain its structural integrity for extended periods of time, enabling safe evacuation and effective firefighting efforts. The incorrect options suggest characteristics that do not apply to Type I construction. For example, combustible structural members would indicate a different type of construction that does not prioritize fire resistance. The idea of uncontrolled heat buildup does not accurately describe the fire-resistive features of this construction type, which is designed specifically to manage heat during a fire. Lastly, the assertion that it is made primarily of wood is incorrect, as Type I construction emphasizes noncombustible materials.