

Pearson Vue Firefighter State 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

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- 1. Where should vehicle-mounted generators be placed to prevent contamination of the scene?**
 - A. Upwind**
 - B. Near the entrance**
 - C. In the wind shadow**
 - D. Downwind**

- 2. Which part of a rope is used to tie a knot or hitch?**
 - A. Standing part**
 - B. Core**
 - C. Working end**
 - D. Bight**

- 3. For fires involving solid fuels, what is the sequence of action when using Class A foam?**
 - A. Blankets the fuel and controls flames, then breaks down to release water for cooling**
 - B. Rapidly cools the air**
 - C. Forms a vapor barrier**
 - D. Evaporates, leaving residue**

- 4. What should be in an arrival report?**
 - A. Weather at the Scene**
 - B. Correct Address of the Incident**
 - C. Names of Bystanders**
 - D. Original Incident Report Number**

- 5. The degree of foam expansion depends on the type of foam concentrate, accurate proportioning, quality of the foam concentrate and:**
 - A. Method of aeration**
 - B. Outside air temperature**
 - C. Length of discharge hose**
 - D. Wind direction and velocity**

- 6. What is a reason that modern construction may tend to contain fires for longer periods of time?**
- A. Older building materials**
 - B. Energy efficient construction**
 - C. Brighter interiors**
 - D. Improved ventilation**
- 7. Which statement best describes foam system compatibility for producing usable foam?**
- A. They must be compatible to produce usable foam**
 - B. Delivery systems always work with any foam blend**
 - C. Compatibility only affects storage**
 - D. Foam concentrates are incompatible with some systems**
- 8. Which type of jack is operated by using the jack to tighten and support a shoring/stabilizing system?**
- A. Hydraulic bottle jack**
 - B. Trench screw jack**
 - C. Floor jack**
 - D. Lever jack**
- 9. Which organization is typically hired to determine cause and amount of loss?**
- A. Insurance investigators**
 - B. Fire marshal**
 - C. Police**
 - D. Building inspector**
- 10. What are the two main types of sprinkler systems?**
- A. Wet pipe**
 - B. Dry pipe**
 - C. Wet pipe and dry pipe**
 - D. Foam and dry pipe**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Where should vehicle-mounted generators be placed to prevent contamination of the scene?

- A. Upwind**
- B. Near the entrance**
- C. In the wind shadow**
- D. Downwind**

Positioning the generator downwind uses the natural breeze to carry any exhaust and vapors away from the incident, reducing the chance that fumes reach the scene. If it were placed upwind, the wind would push those emissions toward responders and victims, increasing contamination risk. Placing it near the entrance could channel fumes into the building or staging areas, and placing it in the wind shadow could allow exhaust to pool and accumulate. Downwind placement helps keep the scene safer by directing contaminants away from people and critical areas while still providing power.

2. Which part of a rope is used to tie a knot or hitch?

- A. Standing part**
- B. Core**
- C. Working end**
- D. Bight**

The main idea here is identifying the part of the rope you actively use to form the knot. That portion is the working end—the end you grip, feed through loops, wraps, and around the standing part to build the knot or hitch. The standing part is the longer, unused length of rope that leads away from the knot and often remains stationary while you tie. A bight is simply a curved, U-shaped section of rope; it can be used to form loops in some knots, but it's not the end you use to tie. The core refers to the rope's internal fibers, which isn't the actively manipulated part in tying. So the end you work with to create the knot is the working end.

3. For fires involving solid fuels, what is the sequence of action when using Class A foam?

- A. Blankets the fuel and controls flames, then breaks down to release water for cooling**
- B. Rapidly cools the air**
- C. Forms a vapor barrier**
- D. Evaporates, leaving residue**

Class A foam works on solid-fuel fires by forming a thick, stable foam blanket over the fuel surface. That blanket covers the fuel, limiting heat transfer and reducing the flame's access to air, which helps to suppress and control the fire. As the foam sits, it begins to break down and drain, releasing its water content to the surface. That water provides direct cooling, bringing down the heat of the fuel and surrounding area and helping to knock the fire down. This sequence—first blanket and control the flames, then break down to release water for cooling—best describes how Class A foam functions on solid fuels. Other ideas like merely cooling the air, forming a vapor barrier, or evaporating and leaving residue don't match the typical action and sequence of Class A foam.

4. What should be in an arrival report?

- A. Weather at the Scene**
- B. Correct Address of the Incident**
- C. Names of Bystanders**
- D. Original Incident Report Number**

The most important piece to include in an arrival report is the exact address of the incident. Verifying and communicating a precise location ensures every responding unit knows exactly where to go, which reduces confusion, saves travel time, and helps command coordinate resources and actions from the moment you arrive. When the address is clear, you can quickly establish scene logistics, direct other units to the right location, and avoid sending crews to the wrong place or through the wrong access points. Weather at the scene, while useful for safety considerations, is not the primary need when you're arriving at a location. It can come into play later as conditions change or affect operations, but it doesn't establish the critical link to where you're operating. Names of bystanders are not appropriate for the arrival report due to privacy and relevance concerns. The original incident report number is part of documentation and traceability, but it doesn't help on-scene operations as immediately as confirming the correct address does. Focus on getting the location right first, and you'll set a solid foundation for the rest of the response.

5. The degree of foam expansion depends on the type of foam concentrate, accurate proportioning, quality of the foam concentrate and:

- A. Method of aeration**
- B. Outside air temperature**
- C. Length of discharge hose**
- D. Wind direction and velocity**

Foam expansion is controlled by how much air is mixed into the foam solution. The amount and character of that air come from the method of aeration, which is how air is introduced to create foam—through nozzle design, mechanical foaming devices, or other aeration techniques. This determines the expansion ratio directly: more effective aeration injects more air and yields more foam, while less aeration produces less foam and a lower expansion. The other factors set up the system but don't drive the expansion amount in the same way. The type and quality of the foam concentrate and how accurately you proportion it affect the chemical properties and stability of the foam, which influence performance, but the aeration method is what mainly sets how much foam you can generate. Outside air temperature, discharge hose length, and wind direction or velocity can influence responsiveness, reach, or drift, but they don't determine the volume of foam produced.

6. What is a reason that modern construction may tend to contain fires for longer periods of time?

- A. Older building materials**
- B. Energy efficient construction**
- C. Brighter interiors**
- D. Improved ventilation**

Modern energy-efficient construction creates tighter building envelopes with less air leakage and better compartmentalization. This reduces the amount of fresh air entering the space, limiting the oxygen available to the fire and slowing its growth. With slower flame development and heat buildup contained within a room or compartment, the fire can persist longer before spreading or being fully extinguished. Additionally, fire-resistive barriers slow progression between spaces, helping keep the event contained for a longer period. In short, airtight, well-sealed buildings can trap heat and smoke and slow ventilation-driven spread, leading to fires that burn for longer before they're controlled.

7. Which statement best describes foam system compatibility for producing usable foam?

- A. They must be compatible to produce usable foam**
- B. Delivery systems always work with any foam blend**
- C. Compatibility only affects storage**
- D. Foam concentrates are incompatible with some systems**

Foam works by mixing a foam concentrate with water in a precise proportion using a foam delivery system. The concentrate's chemistry must be compatible with the system's proportioning method, materials, and components so the concentrate can be drawn, mixed at the correct ratio, and discharged into the water stream to form usable foam. When compatibility exists, the foam forms properly, blankets the fuel, and lasts long enough to suppress the fire. If the concentrate isn't compatible with the system, it may not mix correctly, leading to poor foam expansion, premature collapse, or unstable foam blankets. It can also cause deposits or damage in the proportioning devices or hoses, making the foam unusable. Manufacturers provide compatibility charts to guide which concentrates pair with which systems, underscoring that you must match the concentrate to the system to achieve effective foam.

8. Which type of jack is operated by using the jack to tighten and support a shoring/stabilizing system?

- A. Hydraulic bottle jack**
- B. Trench screw jack**
- C. Floor jack**
- D. Lever jack**

In trench shoring, you need a tool that can apply steady, adjustable pressure to tighten and hold the shoring system in place. A trench screw jack fits that role perfectly: it's a screw-type jack you turn to extend and press against timbers or the trench wall, providing precise support as the trench is stabilized. This lets you gradually tighten the system and maintain it without lifting loads. The other jacks are designed for lifting rather than stabilizing: hydraulic bottle jacks lift heavy loads quickly, floor jacks are for vehicle lifting, and lever jacks are manual lifting devices with limited ability to apply the controlled push needed for shoring.

9. Which organization is typically hired to determine cause and amount of loss?

- A. Insurance investigators**
- B. Fire marshal**
- C. Police**
- D. Building inspector**

When a property loss occurs, the organization most often hired to determine both how the fire started and how much was lost is an insurance investigator. These professionals work for the insurance carrier or a third-party adjuster and specialize in claims. They arrive at the scene to establish the origin and likely cause of the fire, interview witnesses, examine electrical systems and other potential ignition sources, review records, and gather evidence. They also estimate the financial impact by calculating replacement costs or actual cash value, documenting the damage, and identifying what part of the loss is covered by the policy. The fire marshal primarily focuses on public safety and fire origin and cause for code enforcement and arson review, not on valuing the loss or handling the claim. The police handle criminal investigations, including arson if suspected. Building inspectors look at code compliance and safety of structures, not the financial extent of a loss.

10. What are the two main types of sprinkler systems?

- A. Wet pipe**
- B. Dry pipe**
- C. Wet pipe and dry pipe**
- D. Foam and dry pipe**

Two main types of sprinkler systems are wet pipe and dry pipe. In a wet pipe system, the pipes are filled with water, so when a sprinkler head is opened, water flows immediately to the discharge. This makes wet pipe systems fast and simple, but they need to be kept in a heated environment to prevent freezing. In a dry pipe system, the pipes are charged with pressurized air or nitrogen and kept dry until a sprinkler head is activated. A dry valve releases water into the piping, which then reaches the heads. This setup slows the initial response a bit compared to a wet pipe system but protects the piping from freezing and reduces the risk of water damage from a burst pipe in unheated spaces. Other specialized system types exist, such as foam or deluge configurations, but the two most common overall classifications are wet pipe and dry pipe.

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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://pearsonvuefirefighter.examzify.com>

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

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