

Police Radio Codes - Emergency, Crime, Traffic and Support Practice Test (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. What is the recommended approach to 'radio discipline during critical incidents'?**
 - A. Keep messages concise, preface with unit tag, and avoid unnecessary chatter.**
 - B. Broadcast every detail of every unit's status.**
 - C. Use as much chatter as possible to ensure clarity.**
 - D. Delay messages to reduce traffic.**

- 2. What is the primary purpose of police radio codes and signals?**
 - A. To convey information quickly and efficiently, reduce radio traffic, and standardize communications among units and dispatchers.**
 - B. To provide a permanent record of every radio transmission for court use.**
 - C. To confuse criminals and slow down notifications.**
 - D. To replace voice communication with written reports.**

- 3. An APB detail should include which of the following items if available?**
 - A. Weather conditions and wind speed.**
 - B. Suspect/vehicle description; last known location/direction; license plate if available; distinguishing features.**
 - C. The officer's personal contact information.**
 - D. The city budget figures.**

- 4. What does "Out of service" signify for a unit?**
 - A. The unit is unavailable for calls due to transport, break, or maintenance.**
 - B. The unit is available for calls or on patrol.**
 - C. The unit is on a training exercise.**
 - D. The unit is in custody of a suspect.**

- 5. What should be included when announcing a 'staged' or 'standing by' status?**
- A. Location, reason for status, and expected ETA for when to engage.**
 - B. Location only.**
 - C. Reason for status only.**
 - D. ETA for engagement only.**
- 6. Which description corresponds to code 1064?**
- A. Radar**
 - B. Missing Person**
 - C. Burglary**
 - D. Kidnapping**
- 7. What is the function of a dispatch supervisor during an active incident?**
- A. Serve coffee and supervise break room.**
 - B. Coordinate media outreach.**
 - C. Approve overtime pay.**
 - D. Manage resources, maintain safe communications, and relay information between field units and command.**
- 8. Which radio code number corresponds to Stabbing / Cutting?**
- A. 1077**
 - B. 1079**
 - C. 1078**
 - D. 1076**
- 9. What is the difference between 'confirmed' and 'unconfirmed' information on a radio?**
- A. Unconfirmed means verified by evidence or another unit; confirmed means awaiting verification.**
 - B. Confirming information is always instantaneous.**
 - C. Confirmed means verified only by the unit's own observation; unconfirmed means uncertain.**
 - D. Confirmed means documented in a log; unconfirmed means not logged yet.**

10. Which code corresponds to Bad Traffic Device?

A. 1012

B. 1013

C. 1006

D. 1015

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the recommended approach to 'radio discipline during critical incidents'?

- A. Keep messages concise, preface with unit tag, and avoid unnecessary chatter.**
- B. Broadcast every detail of every unit's status.**
- C. Use as much chatter as possible to ensure clarity.**
- D. Delay messages to reduce traffic.**

During critical incidents, radio channels are crowded and every second counts. The best approach to radio discipline is to keep transmissions concise, start with the unit identifier, and avoid unnecessary chatter. Conciseness means sticking to essential information—who is speaking, what is happening, location, needs, and status—without filler. Prefacing with a unit tag helps the dispatcher and other units attribute the message immediately and route responses correctly, which speeds coordination and reduces miscommunication. Limiting chatter prevents critical updates from being buried in a flood of messages and keeps the channel clear for urgent needs. Conversely, sharing every detail, filling the air with chatter, or delaying messages creates clutter, confusion, and delays in response. The goal is clear, timely, and attributable communications so leadership can make informed decisions and responders can coordinate effectively.

2. What is the primary purpose of police radio codes and signals?

- A. To convey information quickly and efficiently, reduce radio traffic, and standardize communications among units and dispatchers.**
- B. To provide a permanent record of every radio transmission for court use.**
- C. To confuse criminals and slow down notifications.**
- D. To replace voice communication with written reports.**

The main idea is that police radio codes and signals are designed to move information quickly, clearly, and consistently between units and dispatchers. By compressing complex situations into short phrases or numbers, messages take less air-time and are less prone to misinterpretation during busy, noisy radio traffic. Standardized codes ensure everyone — officers in the field and the dispatcher — interprets the message the same way, enabling faster, coordinated responses. This system is about efficiency and reliability on the radio, not about creating permanent records, confusing criminals, or replacing voice communication with written reports. Some agencies may use plain language for interoperability, but the primary purpose of codes and signals remains to streamline and standardize on-air communication.

3. An APB detail should include which of the following items if available?

- A. Weather conditions and wind speed.**
- B. Suspect/vehicle description; last known location/direction; license plate if available; distinguishing features.**
- C. The officer's personal contact information.**
- D. The city budget figures.**

APB broadcasts are meant to quickly convey information that helps other units recognize and locate a suspect or vehicle. The details that fit this purpose are the suspect or vehicle description, last known location and direction of travel, license plate if available, and any distinguishing features. Together, these elements give responders a clear, actionable picture to identify, locate, and pursue the subject. Weather conditions and wind speed aren't essential for identifying or tracking an ongoing incident, so they're not the primary items broadcast in an APB. Sharing an officer's personal contact information is inappropriate for a public dispatch and privacy/safety concerns, and city budget figures have no relevance to the pursuit or identification of a suspect.

4. What does "Out of service" signify for a unit?

- A. The unit is unavailable for calls due to transport, break, or maintenance.**
- B. The unit is available for calls or on patrol.**
- C. The unit is on a training exercise.**
- D. The unit is in custody of a suspect.**

Out of service means the unit is not available to handle new dispatches. Dispatch won't assign them new calls because they're occupied with something else—like transporting someone, taking a break, or undergoing maintenance on the vehicle or equipment. This status helps keep assignments clear so the unit isn't overwhelmed with requests it can't take. If a unit is truly available for calls or actively patrolling, that's considered in service or available. A training exercise would be a different status indicating they're temporarily engaged in training rather than unavailable for dispatch. Being in custody of a suspect describes a scene or task they're handling, not a general unavailable status, so it doesn't automatically imply out of service.

5. What should be included when announcing a 'staged' or 'standing by' status?

A. Location, reason for status, and expected ETA for when to engage.

B. Location only.

C. Reason for status only.

D. ETA for engagement only.

When you're in a staged or standing-by status, you must share three pieces of information: your exact location, the reason you are staged, and the expected time of engagement. Location tells the team where you're positioned and where you can be reached or called into action. Reason for status explains your purpose while you're waiting—such as containment, resource hold, or waiting for a suspect to change direction—so supervisors understand your role. The ETA for engagement communicates when you expect to transition from staging to active involvement, helping coordinate with units who may need to backfill, move, or advance concurrently. Without any one of these elements, there's ambiguity: location alone doesn't indicate why you're there or when you'll participate; only the reason leaves others unsure of your actual position or timing; and only the ETA leaves out where you are and why you're waiting. Using all three ensures clear, timely, and safe coordination among responders.

6. Which description corresponds to code 1064?

A. Radar

B. Missing Person

C. Burglary

D. Kidnapping

Radar is used to indicate speed enforcement with radar equipment. When code 1064 is heard, units know that a speed check or radar enforcement operation is active, so they can anticipate possible traffic stops or speed monitoring in progress and adjust safety expectations accordingly. The other descriptions—missing person, burglary, or kidnapping—refer to different types of incidents and are not conveyed by this radar code, which is why radar is the best fit for 1064. Keep in mind that exact code meanings can vary by agency, but in this context 1064 is the radar indicator.

7. What is the function of a dispatch supervisor during an active incident?

- A. Serve coffee and supervise break room.**
- B. Coordinate media outreach.**
- C. Approve overtime pay.**
- D. Manage resources, maintain safe communications, and relay information between field units and command.**

During an active incident, the dispatch supervisor serves as the central link for coordinating resources and maintaining safe, effective communications between field units and command. They monitor radio channels, assign units, track status and location, and relay critical updates in both directions so command has real-time situational awareness. They manage resource requests, coordinate with other agencies as needed, and keep the incident log to document actions and changes in the scene. Clear radio discipline and concise messaging are essential, ensuring information flows smoothly and safely to support decision-making and response. Other tasks like serving coffee, coordinating media outreach, or approving overtime are outside the core responsibilities of this role in an active incident. The key function here is to manage resources, maintain safe communications, and relay information between field units and command.

8. Which radio code number corresponds to Stabbing / Cutting?

- A. 1077**
- B. 1079**
- C. 1078**
- D. 1076**

In police radio coding, each type of incident is mapped to a specific numeric designation so responders can grasp the situation immediately from the radio call. For violent injuries caused by a blade or similar weapon, there is a dedicated code in the 1070s range that flags a stabbing or cutting event. Using that exact code helps dispatch and responding units recognize the situation quickly, prioritize appropriately, and document it consistently. The correct choice is the one that is specifically assigned to stabbing or cutting in this coding scheme, because it uniquely identifies that blade-related injury and avoids mislabeling the call as another type of injury or incident. The other numbers in the same range are reserved for different scenarios, so they wouldn't accurately reflect a stabbing or cutting event. Memorize the idea that stabbing/cutting has its own distinct designation within this code set, separate from other injuries or calls.

- 9. What is the difference between 'confirmed' and 'unconfirmed' information on a radio?**
- A. Unconfirmed means verified by evidence or another unit; confirmed means awaiting verification.**
 - B. Confirming information is always instantaneous.**
 - C. Confirmed means verified only by the unit's own observation; unconfirmed means uncertain.**
 - D. Confirmed means documented in a log; unconfirmed means not logged yet.**

In radio practice, keeping track of information by its verification and documentation status is crucial. The idea is that once information is checked and confirmed, it becomes part of the official record you can rely on during an incident. When something is unconfirmed, it hasn't been verified or entered into the incident log yet, so it should be treated as preliminary and requiring follow-up before acting on it. That's why the best choice is that confirmed means documented in a log, and unconfirmed means not logged yet. Logging the information marks it as verified and accessible to all units and supervisors, while unlogged information remains tentative and not yet suitable as a basis for decisions. For context, other statements aren't accurate reflections of how this status works. Confirmation isn't guaranteed to be instantaneous, since it may require corroboration or evidence. Verification isn't restricted to a unit's own observation, as confirmation can come from multiple sources. And "documented in a log" is the practical marker that an item has moved from tentative to an official, trackable status.

10. Which code corresponds to Bad Traffic Device?

- A. 1012**
- B. 1013**
- C. 1006**
- D. 1015**

Bad Traffic Device is reported with a code that clearly signals a hazard caused by a traffic control device (like a malfunctioning light, sign, or barrier) rather than by a crash or a person. This code tells dispatch and responding units to prioritize traffic management and device repair coordination, so they can route resources appropriately and restore safe conditions quickly. The reason this code is the best choice is that it specifically identifies the nature of the hazard as related to the device itself. It avoids misclassifying the incident as a crash, a routine stop, or another type of hazard, which would lead to the wrong kind of response or delays. The other options describe different situations—such as crashes or other traffic or public-safety incidents—and would not indicate that the problem lies with a traffic device. Using any of those would send responders toward the wrong type of action, delaying proper mitigation of the traffic-device issue.

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://policeradiocodesemergencycrimetraffic.examzify.com>

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

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