# Safety Trained Supervisor in Construction (STSC) Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide


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# Questions

**1. What is the correct order of hazard control methods from highest to lowest effectiveness?**

- **A. Designing out the hazard, using PPE, reducing exposure, eliminating the hazard**
- **B. Eliminating the hazard by substitution, reducing exposure, designing out the hazard, using PPE**
- **C. Designing out the hazard, eliminating the hazard, reducing exposure, using PPE**
- **D. Using PPE, reducing exposure, eliminating the hazard, designing out the hazard**

**2. What is the preferred action for dealing with minor safety rule violations?**

- **A. Written warning**
- **B. Oral reprimand**
- **C. Immediate suspension**
- **D. Increased monitoring**

**3. What is the primary reason for conducting accident investigations related to safety and health issues?**

- **A. To reduce insurance costs**
- **B. To determine facts surrounding the event**
- **C. To comply with government regulations**
- **D. To improve worker morale**

**4. What type of engineer is required for approving deep trench work?**

- **A. A civil engineer**
- **B. A registered professional engineer**
- **C. An environmental engineer**
- **D. A mechanical engineer**

**5. What is the importance of safety procedures in construction?**

- **A. To minimize project costs**
- **B. To enhance worker safety and mitigate risks**
- **C. To comply strictly with time regulations**
- **D. To ensure equipment functionality**

**6. At what height must employees be protected from falling by guardrail systems or fall arrest systems?**

**A. 4 feet**

**B. 6 feet**

**C. 8 feet**

**D. 10 feet**

**7. What should a supervisor do with hazardous waste organic solvents from an operation?**

**A. Dispose of it in regular trash**

**B. Mix it with non-hazardous waste before disposal**

**C. Notify the company environmental manager and ask what to do with materials**

**D. Store it on-site indefinitely**

**8. During an opening conference, which information is the OSHA compliance officer not required to provide?**

**A. Inspection results**

**B. Individual's name that issued the complaint**

**C. Date of the complaint**

**D. Nature of the complaint**

**9. When should new hires receive safety training?**

**A. Only after working for six months**

**B. Immediately before they start working**

**C. Initially, before exposure to job site hazards**

**D. During their lunch break**

**10. What happens if a CSHO uncovers an imminent danger situation during an inspection?**

**A. The CSHO can suspend all operations immediately**

**B. The CSHO can order workers off the job**

**C. The CSHO must inform the employer and leave**

**D. The CSHO must conduct further investigations**

# Answers

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

# Explanations

## 1. What is the correct order of hazard control methods from highest to lowest effectiveness?

**A. Designing out the hazard, using PPE, reducing exposure, eliminating the hazard**

**B. Eliminating the hazard by substitution, reducing exposure, designing out the hazard, using PPE**

**C. Designing out the hazard, eliminating the hazard, reducing exposure, using PPE**

**D. Using PPE, reducing exposure, eliminating the hazard, designing out the hazard**

**The correct order of hazard control methods from highest to lowest effectiveness is indeed correctly identified as designing out the hazard, eliminating the hazard, reducing exposure, and using personal protective equipment (PPE). Starting with the most effective method, designing out the hazard involves creating a work environment that eliminates potential risks altogether through careful planning and engineering solutions. This approach is aimed at removing the hazard before it can cause any harm, which is the ideal goal in safety management. Following that, eliminating the hazard is another highly effective method, which means removing the hazard completely from the workplace environment. Both designing out and eliminating hazards are proactive strategies, focusing on preventing risks rather than managing them after they have been introduced. Next, reducing exposure relates to minimizing the likelihood or severity of exposure to a hazard that still exists. This approach might include implementing measures such as job rotation, limiting the amount of time workers spend near the hazard, or using barriers to reduce contact. Finally, using PPE is considered the lowest effective control method. While PPE is essential for protecting workers, it is a reactive measure that comes into play after other controls have been implemented. It does not eliminate or reduce hazards at the source but rather serves as a last line of defense when other controls may not be sufficient. Understanding**

## 2. What is the preferred action for dealing with minor safety rule violations?

**A. Written warning**

**B. Oral reprimand**

**C. Immediate suspension**

**D. Increased monitoring**

**The preferred action for dealing with minor safety rule violations is to issue an oral reprimand. This approach allows for immediate verbal communication of concerns, providing an opportunity for the supervisor to explain the violation and reinforce the importance of adhering to safety protocols. This type of feedback can be effective in correcting behavior without escalating the situation unnecessarily or damaging the worker's morale. An oral reprimand is a constructive method that encourages dialogue and understanding, allowing the worker to grasp the significance of safe practices while recognizing that a minor infraction doesn't warrant severe penalties. This strategy promotes a positive safety culture where employees feel supported and are more likely to learn from their mistakes. While other options might be appropriate in more serious or repeated violations, using an oral reprimand for minor issues helps maintain a balance between enforcing rules and fostering a cooperative working environment.**

## 3. What is the primary reason for conducting accident investigations related to safety and health issues?

**A. To reduce insurance costs**

**B. To determine facts surrounding the event**

**C. To comply with government regulations**

**D. To improve worker morale**

**Conducting accident investigations primarily aims to determine the facts surrounding the event. This process involves gathering detailed information about what occurred, analyzing the sequence of events, and identifying contributing factors. By establishing a clear understanding of how and why an incident happened, organizations can develop effective measures to prevent similar occurrences in the future. Investigating accidents goes beyond simply gathering data; it enables the identification of hazards, unsafe practices, and systemic failures within a safety management system. This evidence-based approach is crucial for making informed decisions about changes to policies, procedures, and training that ultimately enhance workplace safety. While reducing insurance costs, complying with regulations, and improving worker morale can be outcomes of effective safety management, they are not the primary reasons for conducting an investigation. Focusing on the facts surrounding the incident directly contributes to fostering a culture of safety, as it empowers employers and employees to learn from past mistakes and continuously improve safety practices.**

## 4. What type of engineer is required for approving deep trench work?

**A. A civil engineer**

**B. A registered professional engineer**

**C. An environmental engineer**

**D. A mechanical engineer**

**The requirement for approving deep trench work typically falls under the purview of a registered professional engineer. This is because deep trench work involves specialized knowledge regarding soil mechanics, stability, and safety measures necessary to prevent collapses or accidents during excavation. A registered professional engineer has achieved the necessary licensing and education, which includes understanding the regulatory requirements and engineering principles essential for assessing such projects. While a civil engineer could be qualified to oversee trench work, without the registered status, they may not have the authority to sign off on the project legally. Other engineering disciplines such as environmental or mechanical engineers do not generally focus on the structural integrity and safety of excavation sites, thus making them unlikely candidates for this specific task.**

## 5. What is the importance of safety procedures in construction?

**A. To minimize project costs**

**B. To enhance worker safety and mitigate risks**

**C. To comply strictly with time regulations**

**D. To ensure equipment functionality**

**The significance of safety procedures in construction is fundamentally rooted in their primary goal to enhance worker safety and mitigate risks. In a construction environment, various hazards are present, including falls, equipment malfunctions, and exposure to harmful substances. Implementing robust safety procedures helps identify these risks and establish protocols to prevent accidents, thereby protecting workers' health and safety. Safety procedures encompass training, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and adherence to safety regulations. The focus on enhancing worker safety not only safeguards individuals but also contributes to a more productive work environment by reducing the number of incidents and associated downtime. Additionally, a commitment to safety promotes a strong safety culture within the organization, fostering teamwork and ensuring that all personnel prioritize safety in their daily activities. While minimizing project costs, complying with time regulations, and ensuring equipment functionality are important facets of construction management, they are secondary to the primary objective of protecting human life and well-being. A project that adheres to safety procedures is better equipped to sustain its workforce and minimize liabilities, ultimately leading to a more effective and successful operation.**

## 6. At what height must employees be protected from falling by guardrail systems or fall arrest systems?

**A. 4 feet**

**B. 6 feet**

**C. 8 feet**

**D. 10 feet**

**In construction, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) mandates that fall protection must be provided at elevations of 6 feet in the general industry. This requirement is designed to protect workers from the risks associated with falls, which can result in significant injuries or fatalities. When working at such heights, implementing guardrail systems or using fall arrest systems is crucial to ensure the safety of employees. The choice of 6 feet is based on extensive research into workplace injuries and reflects the industry's commitment to maintaining worker safety standards. In contexts where construction activities occur, this height threshold is particularly critical since many tasks involve working near edges or at considerable heights, emphasizing the importance of adequate fall protection measures to create a safer working environment.**

## 7. What should a supervisor do with hazardous waste organic solvents from an operation?

**A. Dispose of it in regular trash**

**B. Mix it with non-hazardous waste before disposal**

**C. Notify the company environmental manager and ask what to do with materials**

**D. Store it on-site indefinitely**

**Notifying the company environmental manager and seeking guidance on the disposal of hazardous waste organic solvents is the appropriate action for a supervisor. This approach ensures compliance with environmental regulations and safety standards. Hazardous materials often have specific disposal requirements to prevent environmental contamination and health risks, which knowledgeable personnel, like an environmental manager, are trained to handle. Engaging with the environmental manager can provide clarity on the proper procedures for disposing of hazardous waste, including recommendations for recycling, specific disposal methods, and the necessary documentation that must accompany such actions. This chain of communication also ensures that the organization is taking responsible steps toward environmental stewardship and regulatory compliance. Proper handling and disposal of hazardous waste are crucial to mitigate potential harm to employees, the environment, and the surrounding community. Hence, seeking professional advice is not only a best practice but also a legal necessity in managing hazardous substances.**

## 8. During an opening conference, which information is the OSHA compliance officer not required to provide?

**A. Inspection results**

**B. Individual's name that issued the complaint**

**C. Date of the complaint**

**D. Nature of the complaint**

**During an opening conference, the OSHA compliance officer is not required to provide the name of the individual who issued the complaint. The reason for this stems from the principle of confidentiality and protection of the complainant. OSHA adheres to regulations that protect the identity of individuals who report unsafe conditions or violations, to encourage reporting without fear of retaliation or exposure. In contrast, the inspection results, the date of the complaint, and the nature of the complaint are all relevant details that the compliance officer typically shares during this meeting. Sharing this information helps clarify the scope and focus of the inspection, thereby ensuring that all parties are aware of the specific concerns that led to the OSHA intervention. This transparency is essential for allowing the employer to understand what is being investigated and to prepare adequately for the compliance officer's findings.**

## 9. When should new hires receive safety training?

**A. Only after working for six months**

**B. Immediately before they start working**

**C. Initially, before exposure to job site hazards**

**D. During their lunch break**

**New hires should receive safety training initially, before exposure to job site hazards, as this is essential for ensuring their safety and preparedness in their new roles. This proactive approach helps to instill a strong safety culture right from the beginning of their employment. By providing safety training before they begin working, employees are educated on potential hazards they might encounter and the safety protocols they should follow. This foundation is crucial for reducing the risk of accidents and injuries on the job site. Training at the start is aligned with best practices in workplace safety, establishing clear expectations and equipping employees with the knowledge they need to recognize hazards and respond appropriately. Immediate access to safety information increases awareness and ultimately contributes to safer working environments from day one. This type of training demonstrates the employer's commitment to safety and emphasizes its importance within the company's operational procedures.**

## 10. What happens if a CSHO uncovers an imminent danger situation during an inspection?

**A. The CSHO can suspend all operations immediately**

**B. The CSHO can order workers off the job**

**C. The CSHO must inform the employer and leave**

**D. The CSHO must conduct further investigations**

**In the context of a construction site inspection, when a Compliance Safety and Health Officer (CSHO) uncovers an imminent danger situation, the officer has the authority to take immediate action to protect the health and safety of workers. This includes the ability to order workers off the job to ensure that no one is exposed to potentially life-threatening conditions. Ordering workers off the job serves as a critical measure to prevent accidents or injuries resulting from imminent dangers such as hazardous environments, structural instabilities, or unsafe equipment operation. This action helps to prioritize the safety of individuals on site and compels the employer to address the identified hazard before operations can continue. The other options represent actions that do not align with the immediate response required when an imminent danger is identified. For instance, suspending all operations immediately may not be feasible or necessary for all types of imminent dangers, and informing the employer without taking immediate action would not sufficiently protect workers. Additionally, while further investigations can be important, they should not delay action to safeguard worker safety when an imminent danger is evident.**