Salvage and Overhaul Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

Table of Contents

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

1. In salvage operations, which tool is identified as the safest for removing moisture from a structure?

A. Bucket brigade

B. Gravity drainage

C. Wet-dry vacuum

D. Portable water vacuum

2. During overhaul, which walls are opened first to access the most damaged areas?

A. The least damaged walls

B. Walls with chases

C. Partition walls

D. The most heavily damaged walls

3. The rekindle risk exists even if as little as _____ of the original fire is left smoldering.

A. 1 Percent

B. 5 Percent

C. 10 Percent

D. 15 Percent

4. Which hazard is of particular concern with the use of gasoline-powered portable pumps?

A. Heat buildup

B. Carbon Monoxide

C. Noise

D. Electrical shock

5. What is the primary goal of moving contents off the floor during salvage?

A. To prevent water absorption, floor damage, and to allow airflow and quick drying

B. To rearrange items for aesthetics

C. To store items for longer

D. To create more work for crew

6. Which statement is true about the weight of a gallon of water?

A. One gallon of water weighs about 8.3 pounds

B. One gallon of water weighs about 12 pounds

C. One gallon of water weighs about 5 pounds

D. One gallon of water weighs about 15 pounds

7. Which is the primary consideration while conducting salvage and overhaul?

A. Preserving Evidence of Fire Cause

B. Careful Use of Water

C. Leaving the Structure in the Best Condition Possible

D. Thoroughly Clearing the Structure of Debris

8. During salvage, which covering strategy best protects contents from heat and moisture?

A. Leave items unprotected.

B. Expose to heat and moisture.

C. Only use plastic wrap.

D. Use salvage blankets or tarps and store items in protected locations.

9. Before salvage re-entry, which statement best describes the required verification?

A. Utilities can be left active to monitor for rekindling

B. Structure only; no need to check utilities

C. Begin salvage immediately

D. Verify structural integrity, ensure utilities are controlled, check for rekindling, and proceed in a controlled manner

10. Which statement about the first portable light is true?

A. At the entry point into the structure

B. On the A side of the structure

C. On the C side of the structure

D. As close as possible to the seat of the fire

Answers

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

Explanations

1. In salvage operations, which tool is identified as the safest for removing moisture from a structure?

A. Bucket brigade

B. Gravity drainage

C. Wet-dry vacuum

D. Portable water vacuum

Removing moisture from a structure safely hinges on using equipment built specifically for water extraction, with features that protect workers and prevent further damage. A portable water vacuum fits this role because it is designed to handle standing water directly on the jobsite, offering portability and specialized safety features. It typically has a sealed motor, a float shutoff to prevent overflow, and attachments that let you reach tight areas, stairs, and corners without dragging buckets or creating splashes. This enables rapid, controlled water removal, which slows or prevents mold growth, wood warping, and structural deterioration. In contrast, a bucket brigade is slow and increases slip hazards, gravity drainage depends on slopes and may leave hidden pockets of moisture, and a general wet-dry vacuum, while capable, isn't as optimized for continuous water removal in a damaged structure and may lack some of the dedicated safety features of a purpose-built portable water vacuum.

2. During overhaul, which walls are opened first to access the most damaged areas?

A. The least damaged walls

B. Walls with chases

C. Partition walls

D. The most heavily damaged walls

In overhaul, the priority is to locate and extinguish hidden fire and check for extension in concealed spaces. Opening the walls that have sustained the most heat and damage is the best approach because those areas are most likely to conceal embers or a continuing fire behind the surface. Heavily damaged walls show where the fire has already burned most intensely, so exposing them first gives you direct access to the seat of the fire, allows you to fully extinguish hotspots, and prevents rekindling as you ventilate and inspect the space. It also helps you assess the true extent of damage and avoid wasting time on areas where the fire isn't likely to be hiding. Opening less damaged walls or walls that contain chases or partition walls first would risk missing hidden fire and prolonging the overhaul, since those areas are less likely to contain the main hidden fire compared to the most damaged sections.

3. The rekindle risk exists even if as little as _____ of the original fire is left smoldering.

A. 1 Percent

B. 5 Percent

C. 10 Percent

D. 15 Percent

Rekindle risk comes from the fact that smoldering embers can persist in hidden pockets even after the visible fire seems to be out. A tiny amount of residual heat or smoldering material can reignite surrounding fuel when air flows, fuels shift, or new oxygen is introduced. That's why the statement uses the smallest figure—1 percent. It highlights that even a trace amount left smoldering is enough to start a new fire, especially in concealed spaces, voids, or debris where heat and fuel aren't easily seen. In overhaul work, this means you can't assume the fire is finished just because flames are gone. Continuous probing, checking for hot spots, and cooling all potential fuel sources—often with thermal imaging—are essential until everything is truly cool and completely extinguished.

4. Which hazard is of particular concern with the use of gasoline-powered portable pumps?

A. Heat buildup

B. Carbon Monoxide

C. Noise

D. Electrical shock

Gasoline-powered engines vent exhaust that contains carbon monoxide, a toxic gas that can build up quickly in confined or poorly ventilated spaces. In salvage and overhaul work, pumps are often used in basements, crawlspaces, or near structures where fresh air is limited, so the risk of CO poisoning rises. Carbon monoxide is colorless and odorless, so workers may not notice danger until symptoms like headache, dizziness, or confusion appear. Because of this, CO exposure is the most critical hazard with gasoline-powered portable pumps. To reduce risk, operate pumps in well-ventilated outdoor areas, prefer electric or battery-powered units when possible, and use CO detectors or ensure exhaust is directed away from occupied spaces. Heat buildup, noise, and electrical shock are relevant concerns for equipment, but they don't pose the same immediate, insidious danger as carbon monoxide from engine exhaust.

5. What is the primary goal of moving contents off the floor during salvage?

A. To prevent water absorption, floor damage, and to allow airflow and quick drying

B. To rearrange items for aesthetics

C. To store items for longer

D. To create more work for crew

During salvage, the main goal of moving contents off the floor is to control moisture and speed the drying process. When water or moisture is present, porous materials—fabrics, wood, cardboard, and many treasures—tend to absorb water quickly from the surface they rest on. If items stay on the floor, they stay in contact with moisture longer, leading to more absorption, potential staining, swelling, and damage to both the items and the floor itself. Elevating and separating contents creates space for air to circulate underneath and around them. That airflow, often assisted by fans and dehumidifiers, accelerates evaporation and reduces the time moisture lingers. This not only speeds drying but also helps prevent secondary problems like mold growth, odors, and further structural damage. Other choices don't directly address moisture control or drying efficiency. Reorganizing for aesthetics, storing items longer, or simply creating more work doesn't mitigate water damage or promote rapid drying.

6. Which statement is true about the weight of a gallon of water?

A. One gallon of water weighs about 8.3 pounds

B. One gallon of water weighs about 12 pounds

C. One gallon of water weighs about 5 pounds

D. One gallon of water weighs about 15 pounds

The weight of a gallon of water is controlled by density. A US gallon is 3.785 liters, and water's density is about 1 kilogram per liter at typical temperatures, giving roughly 3.785 kilograms. That converts to about 8.34 pounds, so saying a gallon of water weighs about 8.3 pounds is the best approximation. Temperature changes only tweak this slightly (water is densest near 4°C), but 8.3 pounds per US gallon is the standard figure used in field calculations. The other weights would correspond to different liquids or a different gallon definition, not water in a US gallon. This handy rule of thumb helps with quick estimates in salvage operations, such as weighing water to gauge loads, pump capacity needs, or line friction considerations.

7. Which is the primary consideration while conducting salvage and overhaul?

A. Preserving Evidence of Fire Cause

B. Careful Use of Water

C. Leaving the Structure in the Best Condition Possible

D. Thoroughly Clearing the Structure of Debris

Preserving evidence of the fire's origin and cause is the top priority during salvage and overhaul because investigators rely on physical clues to determine how the fire started. Any disturbance, removal, or washing of materials in the area where the fire began can erase patterns, scorch marks, wiring conditions, or other indicators that reveal the ignition source. By minimizing changes to the suspected origin, documenting conditions, and coordinating with investigators, you maintain the integrity of the scene so a accurate determination can be made. Careful use of water and debris removal are important for safety and reducing further damage, but they're secondary to keeping the evidentiary trail intact. Those actions should be balanced so they don't contaminate or destroy clues, and they should occur in concert with investigators' directions. Leaving the structure in the best condition or clearing debris, while valuable for future use and safety, do not override the need to preserve fire-cause evidence.

8. During salvage, which covering strategy best protects contents from heat and moisture?

A. Leave items unprotected.

B. Expose to heat and moisture.

C. Only use plastic wrap.

D. Use salvage blankets or tarps and store items in protected locations.

Protecting contents from heat and moisture during salvage relies on creating a durable barrier and keeping items in a sheltered spot. Salvage blankets or tarps provide a robust cover that blocks radiant heat and rain while allowing careful handling, and placing items in protected locations—ideally elevated and sheltered from direct weather—minimizes exposure to moisture and temperature fluctuations. Leaving items unprotected or exposing them to heat and moisture would invite faster damage, including soaking, warping, or mold growth. Plastic wrap alone often isn't enough because it can tear, trap moisture, and doesn't shield against humidity and leaks. Using both proper coverings and a protected storage area is the most effective approach to minimize further damage during salvage.

9. Before salvage re-entry, which statement best describes the required verification?

A. Utilities can be left active to monitor for rekindling

B. Structure only; no need to check utilities

C. Begin salvage immediately

D. Verify structural integrity, ensure utilities are controlled, check for rekindling, and proceed in a controlled manner

The main idea tested is that safe salvage re-entry hinges on a thorough, pre-entry verification that covers structural stability, utility control, signs of rekindling, and a disciplined, controlled approach. You want to confirm the building is stable enough to support crews and equipment, so no sudden collapse or hazardous movement can occur during entry. You also must secure all utilities so there's no ongoing fuel source or electrical hazard that could reignite hot spots or cause injuries. Even after flames are extinguished, hidden embers can rekindle; checking for rekindling with inspection tools helps ensure there are no remaining ignition sources. Finally, proceeding in a controlled manner means following a documented plan, maintaining clear communications, supervising operations, and using established safety procedures and accountability. Why this is the best approach is that it combines stabilization, hazard elimination, and a careful, organized entry strategy. Leaving utilities active to monitor rekindling creates ongoing ignition risks; focusing only on the structure ignores potential fuel sources; and diving into salvage immediately bypasses critical checks. The comprehensive verification ensures safety for crews and increases the likelihood that the salvage operation proceeds without unforeseen incidents.

10. Which statement about the first portable light is true?

A. At the entry point into the structure

B. On the A side of the structure

C. On the C side of the structure

D. As close as possible to the seat of the fire

Lighting strategy on entry is about getting immediate, usable visibility for the path you're about to take. The first portable light should be placed at the entry point into the structure. This gives you a clear view of the doorway, threshold, and the initial interior corridor so you can identify stairs, obstacles, and room openings as you enter. It helps establish situational awareness early, guiding your team through the layout and reducing the risk of trips, entanglements, or missed hazards in smoky conditions. Placing the light right at the entry also keeps illumination oriented in the direction you're moving, rather than shining on a distant wall or toward the heat source. Lighting the seat of the fire would expose you to extreme heat, smoke, and potential flashback while providing poor utility for navigation and hazard detection. Similarly, positioning the light on a particular wall side doesn't prioritize the travel path and the immediate interior hazards you need to see first.

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://salvageandoverhaul.examzify.com

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