

# SDFD Fire Captain Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

**Copyright © 2025 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.**

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.**

**No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.**

**Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain from reliable sources accurate, complete, and timely information about this product.**

**SAMPLE**

## Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. Which class includes materials that are considered miscellaneous hazards, like airbags?**
  - A. Class 7**
  - B. Class 9**
  - C. Class 5**
  - D. Class 4**
  
- 2. Which of the following is a disciplinary action on the performance track?**
  - A. Verbal Counseling**
  - B. Written Warning**
  - C. Suspension**
  - D. Reprimand**
  
- 3. What is the evacuation distance for a bomb threat with immediate fragmentation risk?**
  - A. 300 feet**
  - B. 600 feet**
  - C. 900 feet**
  - D. 1000 feet**
  
- 4. What is one of the guidelines to follow when building a fire line?**
  - A. Construct the line uphill for safety**
  - B. Identify a safe anchor point before proceeding**
  - C. Build without consideration of lateral risks**
  - D. Ignore weather changes**
  
- 5. Which group is primarily responsible for water supply in a ship fire operation?**
  - A. Rescue group**
  - B. Fire attack team**
  - C. Marine boats**
  - D. Technical rescue team**

- 6. How many working hours absence in a rolling year may lead to discipline?**
- A. 24 hours**
  - B. 36 hours**
  - C. 48 hours**
  - D. 60 hours**
- 7. What action should be taken if there is no hazard from an illegal burn on the beach?**
- A. Handle it internally**
  - B. Call the SDPD to handle it**
  - C. Extinguish the fire immediately**
  - D. Ignore the situation**
- 8. Which type of water rescue is associated with being trapped in water less than 3 feet deep?**
- A. Level 1**
  - B. Level 2**
  - C. Level 3**
  - D. Level 4**
- 9. What is the email address for ordering forms?**
- A. SDFDForms@county.gov**
  - B. SDFDForms@city.gov**
  - C. SDFDForms@sandiego.gov**
  - D. SDFDForms@firedept.gov**
- 10. When should the transition from offensive to defensive firefighting be implemented?**
- A. During extended periods of interior attack**
  - B. When a firefighter is down**
  - C. Any significant event**
  - D. Only during building evacuations**

## **Answers**

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

## **Explanations**

SAMPLE

**1. Which class includes materials that are considered miscellaneous hazards, like airbags?**

- A. Class 7
- B. Class 9**
- C. Class 5
- D. Class 4

The correct choice is Class 9, which categorizes materials that do not fall under the other specific classes of hazardous materials but still pose a risk. This class is defined by the Department of Transportation as encompassing miscellaneous hazardous materials that don't fit neatly into other predefined categories. Airbags, for example, are classified here because they contain potentially hazardous components and are affected by certain regulations, despite not being explicitly flammable, toxic, or explosive. Class 9 is important for recognizing materials that might not be dangerous in typical circumstances but still require careful handling and transportation. This designation helps ensure that additional safety measures are taken when dealing with these types of products, enhancing overall safety in handling and transportation. The other classifications pertain to specific characteristics of hazards such as radioactive materials in Class 7, flammable solids in Class 4, and oxidizers in Class 5, none of which include the broader and more miscellaneous category that encompasses airbags. Thus, Class 9 is the appropriate designation for such materials.

**2. Which of the following is a disciplinary action on the performance track?**

- A. Verbal Counseling**
- B. Written Warning
- C. Suspension
- D. Reprimand

The correct response is verbal counseling, which typically serves as a preliminary step in addressing performance issues within a disciplinary framework. This action is often used to inform an employee about their performance deficiencies and to provide constructive feedback without resorting to more severe penalties. The intention behind verbal counseling is to correct behavior at an early stage, allowing the individual an opportunity to improve their performance without entering the formal disciplinary process. Verbal counseling is usually documented and may be noted in the employee's file, but it does not carry the same weight or consequences as formal written warnings or suspensions. It emphasizes the importance of communication and support in fostering improvement, which can lead to better outcomes for both the employee and the organization.

**3. What is the evacuation distance for a bomb threat with immediate fragmentation risk?**

- A. 300 feet**
- B. 600 feet**
- C. 900 feet**
- D. 1000 feet**

The evacuation distance for a bomb threat with immediate fragmentation risk is typically set at 900 feet. This distance is established based on the potential for debris and fragmentation to project outward and cause injury or damage in the event of an explosion. The 900-foot distance provides a safety buffer that helps ensure that individuals are far enough away from the potential blast zone, reducing the risk of injury from flying debris and shockwaves. This level of caution is important in emergency response protocols, as fragmentation can travel much farther than the initial blast, making it crucial to account for a larger area when clearing out civilians and non-essential personnel. Prioritizing a safe evacuation distance helps responders manage risks effectively while conducting their operations and ensuring public safety.

**4. What is one of the guidelines to follow when building a fire line?**

- A. Construct the line uphill for safety**
- B. Identify a safe anchor point before proceeding**
- C. Build without consideration of lateral risks**
- D. Ignore weather changes**

Identifying a safe anchor point before proceeding is crucial when building a fire line. This guideline ensures that firefighters have a secure and stable location from which to start their operations, allowing them to manage risks associated with fire spread and shifting conditions. An anchor point serves as a base that helps in controlling the fire's movement and provides an effective strategy to mitigate potential hazards. Having a designated anchor point aids in maintaining safety protocols and can be particularly useful in rapidly changing fire environments, where unexpected flare-ups or wind shifts may occur. It allows crew members to establish a reliable fallback position if the situation deteriorates. Overall, the creation of a fire line with a well-considered anchor point enhances operational effectiveness and safety for the firefighting team.

**5. Which group is primarily responsible for water supply in a ship fire operation?**

- A. Rescue group**
- B. Fire attack team**
- C. Marine boats**
- D. Technical rescue team**

In ship fire operations, the primary responsibility for providing a reliable water supply generally falls to marine boats. These vessels are equipped to deliver water directly to the fire scene from the surrounding body of water, which is especially crucial when traditional land-based resources are not accessible. Marine boats can efficiently draft large volumes of water quickly and maneuver close to the source of the fire. While the rescue group focuses on the safety of individuals aboard the ship, and the fire attack team engages directly with the firefighting efforts, neither of these teams is primarily positioned to manage the water supply. The technical rescue team, although skilled in specialized rescue operations, also does not typically handle the water supply logistics in a maritime environment. Thus, marine boats serve a unique and essential role in establishing and maintaining the water supply needed for effective firefighting on ships.

**6. How many working hours absence in a rolling year may lead to discipline?**

- A. 24 hours**
- B. 36 hours**
- C. 48 hours**
- D. 60 hours**

The standard for disciplinary action in terms of hours of absence is commonly set to 48 hours within a rolling year. This threshold is important as it helps maintain accountability and reliability within the workforce. When an employee has an absence that totals to 48 hours during a rolling year, it indicates a pattern that may affect operational effectiveness and can lead to actions being taken in accordance with an organization's disciplinary policies. Understanding this figure is crucial for employees to manage their time off effectively while being aware of the implications of frequent absences. Organizations often establish such metrics to encourage attendance and ensure that staffing levels remain adequate for optimal performance, especially in critical roles such as those in firefighting and emergency services.

**7. What action should be taken if there is no hazard from an illegal burn on the beach?**

- A. Handle it internally**
- B. Call the SDPD to handle it**
- C. Extinguish the fire immediately**
- D. Ignore the situation**

Calling the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) to handle the situation is the appropriate course of action if an illegal burn on the beach poses no immediate hazards. This approach recognizes that while the burn might not present an immediate danger, it is still illegal and may affect other beach-goers. The involvement of law enforcement is crucial to ensure compliance with regulations regarding open flames and to maintain public safety. Handling the situation internally may suggest taking matters into your own hands, which could escalate the situation or lead to enforcement issues later. Extinguishing the fire immediately could be appropriate if there were active hazards, but since the question specifies no hazards, this option would be unnecessary and potentially disruptive. Ignoring the situation is not advisable, as it could lead to worsening conditions or liability issues due to the illegal nature of the burn. Thus, involving the proper authorities is the best and most responsible response.

**8. Which type of water rescue is associated with being trapped in water less than 3 feet deep?**

- A. Level 1**
- B. Level 2**
- C. Level 3**
- D. Level 4**

A water rescue involving situations where individuals are trapped in water less than 3 feet deep typically falls under Level 1 water rescue. This level is designed for emergencies in shallow water where the risks are less severe than in deeper water scenarios. It often consists of assisting individuals who may be in danger of drowning but who can often be reached or rescued using straightforward techniques. Rescue personnel would use basic skills that may include extending a rescue device, reaching with a pole, or utilizing flotation aids to assist those stuck in this shallow water environment. The focus at this level is on safety, ensuring that rescuers are not put at significant risk while helping the victims. Higher levels of water rescue, such as Level 2 through Level 4, often involve increasingly complex or dangerous situations where the rescuer must be trained in specialized techniques to handle deep water conditions, swift currents, or conditions that may pose significant hazard to both the rescuer and the victim.

## 9. What is the email address for ordering forms?

- A. SDFDForms@county.gov
- B. SDFDForms@city.gov
- C. SDFDForms@sandiego.gov**
- D. SDFDForms@firedept.gov

The email address for ordering forms is SDFDForms@sandiego.gov because it uses the official domain associated with the City of San Diego, which aligns with the practices and protocols of municipal departments within the area. This domain correctly reflects the local government's distinction of its online communication and organizational structure. Other options may seem plausible, but they do not align with the recognized official email conventions for the City of San Diego or could refer to entities that don't exist or aren't utilized for such purposes. For efficient communication and the proper routing of requests, it's crucial to use the verified and standardized email associated with the city's fire department. This not only ensures that the forms are ordered correctly but also enhances response accuracy and efficiency when engaging with city services.

## 10. When should the transition from offensive to defensive firefighting be implemented?

- A. During extended periods of interior attack
- B. When a firefighter is down
- C. Any significant event**
- D. Only during building evacuations

The transition from offensive to defensive firefighting should be implemented during any significant event. This reflects the need for adaptive strategies based on evolving fire conditions and an immediate assessment of risks to life and property. Significant events can include sudden fire escalation, structural instability, or hazardous material involvement that compromise safety. Recognizing these critical moments allows incident commanders to prioritize firefighter safety and the protection of civilian life, making a clear shift to defensive tactics when conditions dictate. Interior attacks, while aggressive and often necessary, require constant evaluation of the situation. A firefighter being down is certainly a major concern but should lead to a reevaluation of tactics rather than defining the transition point. Additionally, while evacuations may necessitate changes in approach, they do not encompass the broader spectrum of events that could require a defensive strategy. Thus, identifying significant events is crucial for making timely and effective decisions during firefighting operations.