

STRUCTURAL SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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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. Which action can protect the egress pathways during a search so that the search team can escape if conditions change rapidly?**
 - A. Keep doors open for visibility
 - B. Close doors along the egress path after rooms are searched
 - C. Remove doors to clear path
 - D. Push through rooms without doors
- 2. What is a commonly cited limitation of thermal imagers in carpeted structures?**
 - A. They may not be able to detect fire on the floors below
 - B. They require direct flame contact to operate
 - C. They can only be used at night
 - D. They cannot detect heat through concrete
- 3. Which is not a VEIS step?**
 - A. Vent
 - B. Enter
 - C. Isolate
 - D. Extinguish
- 4. After locating a downed firefighter in an IDLH atmosphere, what is the RIC's priority?**
 - A. Providing on-scene medical care
 - B. Establishing a new search line
 - C. Securing the area around the downed firefighter
 - D. Exiting the IDLH atmosphere
- 5. Which equipment is commonly carried by search and rescue personnel for visibility in smoke?**
 - A. Radios and flashlights
 - B. Drones and acoustic devices
 - C. Thermal imagers and forcible entry tools
 - D. PPE and ropes

- 6. Which basic firefighting skill serves as an essential survival skill during search and rescue operations?**
- A. Maintaining situational awareness
 - B. Forcing a window or cutting through debris
 - C. Deploying a hoseline
 - D. Ventilating a room
- 7. Which statement about air-monitoring device safety is true?**
- A. They are foolproof.
 - B. They must be calibrated only yearly.
 - C. They may be unsafe if used incorrectly, jeopardizing safety.
 - D. They never fail.
- 8. During a secondary search, rescuers should not remove SCBA until:**
- A. The team finishes the search
 - B. The supervisor or safety officer determines that the atmosphere is safe
 - C. The crowd outside approves
 - D. They are ordered by the incident commander
- 9. When is spine protection indicated during victim packaging?**
- A. Protect the spine during handling if there is potential spinal injury.
 - B. Spine protection is never necessary.
 - C. Spine protection is always required regardless of injury.
 - D. Spine protection only after extraction.
- 10. An atmosphere is considered hazardous if it contains a hazardous gas in excess of 10 percent of the hazardous material's:**
- A. Lower Explosive Limit (LEL).
 - B. Upper Explosive Limit (UEL).
 - C. Oxygen percentage.
 - D. Particulate concentration.

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which action can protect the egress pathways during a search so that the search team can escape if conditions change rapidly?

- A. Keep doors open for visibility
- B. Close doors along the egress path after rooms are searched**
- C. Remove doors to clear path
- D. Push through rooms without doors

Preserving a protected egress path is essential so team members have a safe escape route if conditions deteriorate. Closing doors along the path after rooms are searched creates compartments that slow the spread of heat, smoke, and harmful gases, keeping the corridor more tenable and providing a predictable route to exit. Doors act as barriers that limit hazard migration from searched areas into the escape route, helping maintain visibility and breathable air along the way out. Leaving doors open defeats this protection, allowing hazards to surge into the egress path. Removing doors eliminates necessary barriers, and pushing through rooms without doors ignores the purpose of doors in controlling airflow and hazards, making escape riskier.

2. What is a commonly cited limitation of thermal imagers in carpeted structures?

- A. They may not be able to detect fire on the floors below**
- B. They require direct flame contact to operate
- C. They can only be used at night
- D. They cannot detect heat through concrete

Thermal imagers rely on line-of-sight infrared radiation from heat sources. In a carpeted, multi level structure, heat from a fire on a lower floor is often blocked or greatly attenuated by floors, ceilings, and insulating materials, so the heat signature may not reach the imager on the upper level. That means you can have a fire below and still see little to no thermal signal on the level where you're scanning, making it easy to miss fires on floors beneath. This isn't about needing direct flame contact or about being usable only at night. Thermal imagers don't require direct flame contact and can operate in daylight or darkness, but barriers like concrete, dense flooring, or closed ceilings can prevent heat from being detected through them.

3. Which is not a VEIS step?

- A. Vent
- B. Enter
- C. Isolate
- D. Extinguish**

VEIS is a rapid interior-operation sequence used to quickly evaluate and manage a fire scene while locating occupants. The four actions in VEIS are Vent, Enter, Isolate, and Search. Vent is about releasing smoke and heat to improve visibility and conditions, Enter means moving inside to assess and begin rescue, Isolate involves containing the fire area by closing doors or stopping the spread to keep conditions safe for the team, and Search is actively looking for occupants and hazards inside the structure. Extinguish is not part of that sequence. While extinguishing the fire is essential, it isn't one of the four VEIS steps, which focus on initial assessment, safe entry, containment, and searching for victims.

4. After locating a downed firefighter in an IDLH atmosphere, what is the RIC's priority?

- A. Providing on-scene medical care
- B. Establishing a new search line
- C. Securing the area around the downed firefighter

D. Exiting the IDLH atmosphere

In an IDLH environment, the immediate objective of the Rapid Intervention Crew when they locate a downed firefighter is to get that firefighter out of the hazardous area. Exiting the IDLH with the downed member takes priority because every moment inside the toxic or oxygen-depleted atmosphere increases the risk to life for both the victim and the rescuers. Moving the firefighter to a safe, non-IDLH location allows rapid assessment and life-saving care to be provided outside the danger zone, where conditions are controllable. Providing on-scene medical care is essential, but it depends on first removing the person from the hazardous environment. While securing the area around the downed firefighter and establishing a new search line are important supporting tasks, they do not directly accomplish the life-saving objective of removing the firefighter from the dangerous atmosphere as quickly as possible.

5. Which equipment is commonly carried by search and rescue personnel for visibility in smoke?

- A. Radios and flashlights
- B. Drones and acoustic devices

C. Thermal imagers and forcible entry tools

D. PPE and ropes

In smoky conditions, your ability to see is severely reduced, so you rely on tools that reveal heat rather than light. A thermal imager detects infrared radiation and turns it into an image, letting you spot people, heat sources, and hot spots through the smoke. That direct visibility boost is why this equipment is essential in search and rescue when visibility is compromised. Forcible entry tools are included because, once you locate a space or door, you may need to access it quickly to reach victims or create a safer path. Together, the thermal imager provides the visibility you need, while the entry tools address the practical need to get to those you're trying to rescue. The other options don't offer the same direct visibility through smoke, since radios and flashlights rely on visible light, drones and acoustic devices don't provide a clear through-smoke view, and PPE with ropes are important but not visibility-improving tools.

6. Which basic firefighting skill serves as an essential survival skill during search and rescue operations?

A. Maintaining situational awareness

B. Forcing a window or cutting through debris

C. Deploying a hoseline

D. Ventilating a room

Creating a quick, controllable path to safety is the key survival ability in a fire-ground search and rescue. Forcing a window or cutting through debris is that direct, hands-on skill: it lets you rapidly breach barriers to reach a victim or to escape deteriorating conditions when doors are blocked or unusable. This capability provides immediate access or exit, which can be the difference between getting to someone in need or getting out alive yourself. Maintaining situational awareness matters for safety and planning, and deploying a hoseline or ventilating a room are important firefighting tasks, but they don't address the need for a fast, reliable means to enter or escape a dangerous area as effectively as forcible entry does.

7. Which statement about air-monitoring device safety is true?

- A. They are foolproof.
- B. They must be calibrated only yearly.
- C. They may be unsafe if used incorrectly, jeopardizing safety.**
- D. They never fail.

Air-monitoring devices are essential safety tools, but they're not infallible. Their readings depend on proper use and regular maintenance. Sensors can drift over time, pumps or batteries can fail, and calibration or bump testing might be skipped or performed incorrectly. Environmental conditions, sensor poisoning, or exposure to gases outside what the sensor can detect can also distort readings. Because of these possibilities, the devices can be unsafe if used incorrectly, which is why a careless approach to calibration, testing, or interpretation can jeopardize safety. In short, these tools enhance safety when used correctly and maintained, but they do not guarantee safety on their own.

8. During a secondary search, rescuers should not remove SCBA until:

- A. The team finishes the search
- B. The supervisor or safety officer determines that the atmosphere is safe**
- C. The crowd outside approves
- D. They are ordered by the incident commander

The key point is protecting the team's breathing safety by ensuring the atmosphere is actually safe before removing breathing protection. In hazardous environments, contaminants or low oxygen can linger even after other signs look okay, so a supervisor or safety officer must assess gas readings and overall air quality before allowing SCBA to come off. Their professional judgment ensures conditions meet safe limits, and removal follows that confirmed assessment. Finishing the search, crowd approval, or a commander's order alone does not guarantee safety without that air-quality determination.

9. When is spine protection indicated during victim packaging?

- A. Protect the spine during handling if there is potential spinal injury.**
- B. Spine protection is never necessary.
- C. Spine protection is always required regardless of injury.
- D. Spine protection only after extraction.

Spine protection is applied whenever there is a potential spinal injury during movement. The aim is to prevent secondary damage by keeping the spine in a neutral, aligned position as you handle and package the victim. If the mechanism or signs suggest possible spinal injury, you stabilize the head and neck, use a cervical collar if available, and immobilize the patient to a backboard or scoop stretcher before and during extraction, maintaining alignment throughout. You begin protection during handling rather than waiting until after extraction, and you don't treat spine protection as unnecessary or universally mandatory in every case. The correct approach balances vigilance for possible injury with careful handling, avoiding movement that could worsen the spine while not over-imposing protection when it's clearly not needed.

10. An atmosphere is considered hazardous if it contains a hazardous gas in excess of 10 percent of the hazardous material's:

- A. Lower Explosive Limit (LEL).**
- B. Upper Explosive Limit (UEL).
- C. Oxygen percentage.
- D. Particulate concentration.

The thing being tested is how flammability is measured in the air. The Lower Explosive Limit, or LEL, is the smallest concentration of a flammable gas in air that can ignite if there's an ignition source present. Safety guidelines use a practical threshold of 10% of the LEL to flag a hazardous atmosphere because, at that level, there's a real ignition risk even under normal conditions. So, when a gas in the air reaches or exceeds 10% of its LEL, the environment is considered hazardous due to the possibility of combustion. The upper end of the flammable range, the UEL, is where the mixture becomes too rich to ignite, which is why it's not used for classifying a hazardous atmosphere in this context. Oxygen percentage matters for combustion and health, but it isn't described as a percentage of the LEL. Particulate concentration isn't the factor being asked about here, since the focus is on flammability of gases.

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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://structuralsar.examzify.com>

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

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