

Supervision of Fire Alarm Systems (S-95) Practice Exam (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 does "notification appliance" refer to in a fire alarm system?**
 - A. Devices that alert occupants, such as horns, strobes, and speakers**
 - B. Equipment used to ensure a fire does not break out**
 - C. Devices that control the building's electrical systems**
 - D. Devices for communicating with emergency services**

- 2. In the event of a fire alarm condition, which device must remain active until verified?**
 - A. Smoke detector only**
 - B. Visual signaling device only**
 - C. Audible and visual signaling device**
 - D. Fire control panel**

- 3. What is the primary purpose of a fire alarm system's supervisory condition?**
 - A. To indicate a fire is present**
 - B. To signal a maintenance need**
 - C. To provide evacuation instructions**
 - D. To alert the fire department**

- 4. What do ionization smoke detectors monitor in the air?**
 - A. Carbon particles**
 - B. Heat waves**
 - C. Ions**
 - D. Smoke density**

- 5. What type of signal do air-sampling detectors provide if the airflow is outside the manufacturer's specified range?**
 - A. Trouble**
 - B. Alert**
 - C. Warning**
 - D. Normal**

- 6. What is the main objective of a fire alarm system?**
- A. To extinguish fires automatically**
 - B. To detect and alert occupants to fires quickly**
 - C. To provide a visual aesthetic to a building**
 - D. To support building maintenance operations**
- 7. What type of signal indicates that a monitored system or device is in an abnormal state?**
- A. Warning Signal**
 - B. Fire Alarm Signal**
 - C. Supervisory Signal**
 - D. Malfunction Signal**
- 8. What is the purpose of a fire alarm system's battery backup?**
- A. To reduce false alarms**
 - B. To ensure the system remains operational during a power outage**
 - C. To extend the lifespan of the system**
 - D. To alert occupants of low battery**
- 9. What are the requirements for fire alarm system installation in high-rise buildings?**
- A. No special requirements**
 - B. General installation as per local codes**
 - C. Specific codes regarding coverage and notification**
 - D. Only manual pull stations are needed**
- 10. Which NFPA standard covers the maintenance of fire alarm systems?**
- A. NFPA 70**
 - B. NFPA 72**
 - C. NFPA 101**
 - D. NFPA 13**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does "notification appliance" refer to in a fire alarm system?

- A. Devices that alert occupants, such as horns, strobes, and speakers**
- B. Equipment used to ensure a fire does not break out**
- C. Devices that control the building's electrical systems**
- D. Devices for communicating with emergency services**

In a fire alarm system, the term "notification appliance" specifically refers to devices that are designed to alert occupants of a building to the presence of a fire or an emergency situation. These devices include horns, strobes, and speakers, which serve to provide audible and visual signals to effectively notify people within the environment that immediate action is required, such as evacuation. The purpose of notification appliances is critical in ensuring occupant safety, as they are the primary means by which individuals are made aware of a fire threat. Efficient notification not only helps in reducing panic but also facilitates a timely evacuation, thereby minimizing risks associated with potential fire hazards. By employing multiple forms of notification such as sound (horns or alarms) and light (strobe lights), fire alarm systems accommodate individuals with varying sensory abilities and ensure a wider reach of alerting capabilities within the building. In contrast, the other choices do not align with the definition of notification appliances. For instance, equipment that prevents fires or devices that control building electrical systems serve entirely different functions unrelated to occupant notification in emergencies. Likewise, while some systems have components for emergency communication, that is a separate category distinct from the notification appliances' role in alerting occupants.

2. In the event of a fire alarm condition, which device must remain active until verified?

- A. Smoke detector only**
- B. Visual signaling device only**
- C. Audible and visual signaling device**
- D. Fire control panel**

In the event of a fire alarm condition, maintaining the activation of both audible and visual signaling devices is crucial for effective emergency response. These devices are essential components of a fire alarm system, as they alert occupants within the building about the emergency, facilitating evacuation and ensuring safety. The audible signaling device typically emits sound to capture attention and encourage immediate action, while the visual signaling device, such as strobe lights, provides a visual alert, which is particularly important for individuals who may be hard of hearing or in noisy environments. Both devices working together help ensure that all individuals are made aware of the emergency situation, regardless of their sensory abilities or the conditions within the environment. Other devices, such as smoke detectors or the fire control panel, play their own significant roles in the fire alarm system but do not directly contribute to notifying building occupants in real-time during a fire alarm condition. The fire control panel manages the various components of the system and monitors alarms, but it is the audible and visual signals that provide immediate notification essential for the safety of those in the building. Therefore, it is critical for both types of signaling devices to remain active until verification of the alarm is completed, ensuring all safety protocols are followed and individuals are adequately informed.

3. What is the primary purpose of a fire alarm system's supervisory condition?

- A. To indicate a fire is present**
- B. To signal a maintenance need**
- C. To provide evacuation instructions**
- D. To alert the fire department**

The primary purpose of a fire alarm system's supervisory condition is indeed to signal a maintenance need. Supervisory signals are designed to monitor the integrity and functionality of various components of the fire alarm system. This can include monitoring devices such as water flow switches, pressure switches, and door position sensors to ensure they are functioning properly. When a supervisory condition is triggered, it indicates that there is a potential issue that requires attention before it develops into a more significant problem that could compromise the system's effectiveness in the event of a fire. This function is distinct from indicating the presence of a fire, which is the role of alarm signals, or providing evacuation instructions, which is typically managed through public address systems or emergency exit signage. Similarly, alerting the fire department is not the primary function of supervisory conditions; rather, it involves detection and alarm signals that notify appropriate emergency responders when an active alarm is triggered. Thus, understanding supervisory conditions is crucial for maintaining the operational integrity of fire alarm systems and ensuring they function effectively when needed.

4. What do ionization smoke detectors monitor in the air?

- A. Carbon particles**
- B. Heat waves**
- C. Ions**
- D. Smoke density**

Ionization smoke detectors work by utilizing a small amount of radioactive material to create a constant flow of ions within a sensing chamber. In this environment, the ions are charged particles that facilitate the flow of an electrical current. When smoke enters this chamber, it disrupts the flow of ions by attaching to the charged particles, thereby reducing the current. This reduction in current is detected by the device and triggers the alarm. The importance of monitoring ions is rooted in the technology behind ionization detectors, which are particularly sensitive to fast-flaming fires that emit small combustion particles. This sensitivity allows them to effectively detect smoke from a variety of sources. Hence, the correct answer reflects the operational principle of these detectors, focusing on their interaction with ions in the air rather than other factors like temperature changes or smoke density, which are monitored by different types of detection technologies.

5. What type of signal do air-sampling detectors provide if the airflow is outside the manufacturer's specified range?

- A. Trouble**
- B. Alert**
- C. Warning**
- D. Normal**

Air-sampling detectors are designed to continuously monitor the airflow for detecting smoke particles. If the airflow is outside the manufacturer's specified range, it indicates a malfunction or issue with the detector's ability to function correctly. This scenario prompts the system to generate a trouble signal, alerting the supervisory panel that the air-sampling detector is not operating within its optimal parameters. A trouble signal is crucial because it informs personnel that immediate attention is required to ensure the safety and reliability of the fire alarm system. Maintaining the correct airflow is essential for the detector's sensitivity, and if this is disrupted, it could lead to failure in smoke detection, which could compromise safety measures in the environment being monitored.

6. What is the main objective of a fire alarm system?

- A. To extinguish fires automatically**
- B. To detect and alert occupants to fires quickly**
- C. To provide a visual aesthetic to a building**
- D. To support building maintenance operations**

The main objective of a fire alarm system is to detect and alert occupants to fires quickly. This function is critical as it provides early warning which is essential for the safety of individuals within a building. Rapid detection and notification allow occupants the opportunity to evacuate safely and for emergency responders to take action sooner. Fire alarm systems employ various sensors and devices to identify smoke, heat, or flames, and when detected, they activate alarms to notify people in the vicinity. The primary goal is to protect lives by ensuring that individuals can respond promptly to a fire situation. While there are other purposes and benefits associated with fire alarm systems, such as supporting maintenance operations or enhancing building aesthetics, these do not align with the primary and most essential objective of safeguarding lives through early detection and alerting.

7. What type of signal indicates that a monitored system or device is in an abnormal state?

- A. Warning Signal**
- B. Fire Alarm Signal**
- C. Supervisory Signal**
- D. Malfunction Signal**

A supervisory signal is used to indicate that a monitored system or device is in an abnormal state. This type of signal does not imply a fire alarm condition but rather signifies that something is not functioning as expected. It serves as an alert to personnel that there may be issues such as a supervisory condition that requires attention, maintenance, or verification of system integrity. In a fire alarm system, supervisory signals can indicate problems with components like valves being closed, tampering with devices, or other situations that could potentially impact the overall system performance. By distinguishing these signals, the fire alarm system can ensure not only the alerting function during emergencies but also the overall reliability and readiness of the system by alerting operators to non-critical but important conditions. Other types of signals, such as warning signals or malfunction signals, may indicate different aspects of system operation but are not specifically focused on monitoring the operational status of devices in the same way as supervisory signals. Fire alarm signals are explicitly related to the detection of fire or smoke, so they do not fit the context of indicating an abnormal state of a monitored system.

8. What is the purpose of a fire alarm system's battery backup?

- A. To reduce false alarms**
- B. To ensure the system remains operational during a power outage**
- C. To extend the lifespan of the system**
- D. To alert occupants of low battery**

The purpose of a fire alarm system's battery backup is to ensure the system remains operational during a power outage. In the event of a disruption in the power supply, such as during a storm or other emergencies, the battery backup allows the fire alarm system to continue to function. This capability is critical for maintaining safety, as fire detection and alerting mechanisms must be available at all times to detect fires and notify occupants even when the primary power source is unavailable. Reliable operation during a power failure is essential because it prevents a potential scenario where a fire could go undetected, endangering lives and property. The battery backup system is designed to automatically switch on when the power goes out, ensuring that all monitoring, detection, and communication functions continue to work seamlessly. This feature is a vital component of any effective fire alarm system, contributing to overall fire safety strategies.

9. What are the requirements for fire alarm system installation in high-rise buildings?

- A. No special requirements**
- B. General installation as per local codes**
- C. Specific codes regarding coverage and notification**
- D. Only manual pull stations are needed**

In high-rise buildings, the installation of fire alarm systems is subject to specific codes and regulations to ensure the safety of occupants and the effectiveness of the alarm system. These codes address crucial aspects such as coverage, the placement of devices, communication of alarms, and notification requirements tailored for the unique challenges posed by tall structures. High-rise buildings often have different smoke movement patterns, evacuation challenges, and response times, making it essential to implement comprehensive fire alarm strategies. The specific codes associated with fire alarm installations in high-rise buildings typically require a detailed analysis of the building layout, including the requirements for audible and visual notification devices, the number and placement of smoke detectors, and the integration of fire alarm systems with emergency communication systems. By adhering to these specific codes, the installation can provide enhanced safety for both residents and responders, ensuring that alarms are promptly detected and communicated effectively throughout the building.

10. Which NFPA standard covers the maintenance of fire alarm systems?

- A. NFPA 70**
- B. NFPA 72**
- C. NFPA 101**
- D. NFPA 13**

The maintenance of fire alarm systems is specifically addressed in NFPA 72, also known as the National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code. This standard provides comprehensive guidelines for the design, installation, performance, and maintenance of fire alarm systems. In NFPA 72, there are clear provisions outlining the routine maintenance and testing requirements necessary to ensure the fire alarm systems function correctly and reliably. This includes, but is not limited to, periodic testing of alarm devices, inspections of circuits, and the proper upkeep of system components to facilitate prompt emergency response in case of a fire. Understanding the significance of these maintenance requirements is crucial for ensuring that fire alarm systems remain operational and compliant with current safety standards. The other standards mentioned, while important in their respective areas—such as electrical safety (NFPA 70), life safety (NFPA 101), and sprinkler systems (NFPA 13)—do not specifically cover the maintenance practices for fire alarm systems as NFPA 72 does.

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://supervisionoffirearmsystems.examzify.com>

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

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