

SUPERVISION OF FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS (S-95) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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. How often should smoke alarms be replaced?**
 - A. Every 5 years
 - B. Every 10 years
 - C. Every 15 years
 - D. Every 20 years
- 2. Which type of heat detectors activate when the component melts at a preset temperature?**
 - A. Rate of rise heat detectors
 - B. Fixed-temperature heat detectors
 - C. Laser heat detectors
 - D. Photoelectric heat detectors
- 3. What function does a zone indicator panel serve in a fire alarm system?**
 - A. To display the total number of alarms
 - B. To indicate which zone has been activated
 - C. To provide user interface for manual control
 - D. To outline building evacuation routes
- 4. What type of detector is required in any building that has fossil fuel burning equipment?**
 - A. Smoke detector
 - B. Carbon monoxide detector
 - C. Heat detector
 - D. Photoelectric detector
- 5. For air sampling type detectors, what is the maximum air sampling transport time from the farthest point?**
 - A. 60 seconds
 - B. 90 seconds
 - C. 120 seconds
 - D. 150 seconds

- 6. What is the primary purpose of manual extinguishing systems in fire safety?**
- A. To enhance fire alarm notifications
 - B. To allow occupants to actively suppress a fire
 - C. To replace the need for automatic sprinklers
 - D. To reduce fire insurance costs
- 7. What is an advantage of integrating manual extinguishing systems with fire alarms?**
- A. Minimizes the need for regular maintenance
 - B. Enhances the reliability of fire services
 - C. Provides immediate fire alerts to occupants
 - D. Increases the likelihood of total fire suppression
- 8. What is a supervisory signal in a fire alarm system?**
- A. An indication of proper system function
 - B. An indication that a monitored circuit or device is not functioning properly or is in a fault condition
 - C. An indicator of successful system maintenance
 - D. An alert for scheduled system testing
- 9. What role do smoke alarms play in a fire safety plan?**
- A. They act as a decorative item in homes
 - B. They provide critical early warning of smoke and fire
 - C. They only serve to notify local fire departments
 - D. They are primarily used for carbon monoxide detection
- 10. What are the two types of photoelectric smoke detectors?**
- A. Heat detection and light scattering
 - B. Light scattering and light obscuration
 - C. Ionization and photoelectric
 - D. Carbon detection and infrared detection

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How often should smoke alarms be replaced?

- A. Every 5 years
- B. Every 10 years**
- C. Every 15 years
- D. Every 20 years

Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years, which is based on recommendations from fire safety organizations and manufacturers. The rationale behind this recommendation is that over time, the components of smoke alarms can degrade, leading to diminished sensitivity and reliability. Factors such as dust accumulation, insect infestations, and aging electronics contribute to the eventual failure of the unit. After 10 years of service, even if the smoke alarm seems to function properly, its ability to detect smoke may be compromised, which increases the risk of not alerting occupants in case of a fire. By replacing smoke alarms at this interval, homeowners ensure they maintain effective fire detection devices, which are critical for safety in residential and commercial settings. Understanding the lifespan of smoke alarms emphasizes the importance of regular maintenance and replacement as part of a comprehensive fire safety plan.

2. Which type of heat detectors activate when the component melts at a preset temperature?

- A. Rate of rise heat detectors
- B. Fixed-temperature heat detectors**
- C. Laser heat detectors
- D. Photoelectric heat detectors

Fixed-temperature heat detectors are designed to activate when the temperature in the surrounding area rises to a predetermined level, which causes the detector's sensing element to melt. This melting triggers the alarm, indicating that a specified temperature threshold has been exceeded, typically associated with a fire condition. These detectors are commonly used in various settings because they provide a reliable way to monitor for high temperatures that are indicative of fires. The melting point is specifically set according to the requirements of the environment where the detector is installed, making them suitable for many applications. In contrast, rate of rise heat detectors activate based on a rapid increase in temperature over a short period rather than a specific melting point. Laser and photoelectric heat detectors are based on different operational principles and do not function by melting components to signal a fire condition.

3. What function does a zone indicator panel serve in a fire alarm system?

- A. To display the total number of alarms
- B. To indicate which zone has been activated**
- C. To provide user interface for manual control
- D. To outline building evacuation routes

A zone indicator panel is designed specifically to show which area or zone of a building has triggered an alarm. This is crucial for effective emergency response, allowing first responders or occupants to quickly identify the location of a fire or other emergency situation. By pinpointing the exact zone, the panel provides critical information that can assist in determining the appropriate action to take, whether that be evacuation, suppression, or accessing the area to assess the situation further. The ability to indicate specific zones helps streamline the response process during an emergency, facilitating quicker and more efficient evacuations or interventions by emergency personnel. It serves a vital role in the overall functionality of fire alarm systems by enhancing situational awareness and ensuring that the relevant information is readily available in a time-sensitive situation.

4. What type of detector is required in any building that has fossil fuel burning equipment?

- A. Smoke detector
- B. Carbon monoxide detector**
- C. Heat detector
- D. Photoelectric detector

In any building that has fossil fuel burning equipment, a carbon monoxide detector is essential due to the risks associated with carbon monoxide (CO) exposure. Fossil fuels, such as natural gas, oil, and coal, release carbon monoxide as a byproduct of combustion. This colorless, odorless gas can accumulate indoors and pose significant health risks, including poisoning and even death. The installation of carbon monoxide detectors is mandated by various codes and regulations in many regions, particularly because of the dangerous nature of CO. Unlike smoke detectors, which are designed to detect particulate matter from combustion, carbon monoxide detectors specifically sense the presence of CO gas in the environment, providing an early warning system that can save lives. In summary, carbon monoxide detectors are critical in buildings utilizing fossil fuel appliances to ensure safety from potentially lethal gas exposure, making this the correct answer for the given question.

5. For air sampling type detectors, what is the maximum air sampling transport time from the farthest point?

- A. 60 seconds
- B. 90 seconds
- C. 120 seconds**
- D. 150 seconds

The correct answer reflects the standard maximum air sampling transport time allowed for air sampling type detectors in fire alarm systems. Air sampling detectors are designed to continuously monitor the air for the presence of smoke particles, and their effectiveness depends significantly on the speed at which air can be sampled and delivered to the sensing chamber. A maximum transport time of 120 seconds ensures that the system can effectively sample air from various locations within the protected area, allowing for an efficient and timely response to potential fire conditions. This 120-second limit is established to balance the system's sensitivity and response time while ensuring it can accommodate the complexities of locations that may be far from the detector itself. In contrast, shorter or longer sampling times may not provide adequate sensitivity or could introduce delays that would risk the safety and responsiveness of the fire alarm system. Thus, adhering to the 120-second standard helps maintain the integrity and reliability of air sampling systems in detecting possible fire threats promptly.

6. What is the primary purpose of manual extinguishing systems in fire safety?

- A. To enhance fire alarm notifications
- B. To allow occupants to actively suppress a fire**
- C. To replace the need for automatic sprinklers
- D. To reduce fire insurance costs

The primary purpose of manual extinguishing systems in fire safety is to allow occupants to actively suppress a fire. These systems, including portable fire extinguishers, are designed to be operated by individuals to tackle small fires before they escalate. This proactive approach empowers building occupants to take immediate action, which can significantly mitigate the threat posed by a fire, potentially saving lives and property. Manual extinguishing systems are an essential part of a comprehensive fire safety plan, as they provide a vital first line of defense against fires. Training occupants on how to properly use these systems ensures that they are prepared to respond effectively in the event of a fire. The ability to extinguish small fires quickly can prevent them from spreading and causing greater damage. While other options may involve aspects related to fire safety, they do not capture the primary function of manual extinguishing systems in the same way. The focus is on empowering individuals to take an active role in fire suppression, which is fundamental to improving overall fire safety.

7. What is an advantage of integrating manual extinguishing systems with fire alarms?

- A. Minimizes the need for regular maintenance
- B. Enhances the reliability of fire services
- C. Provides immediate fire alerts to occupants**
- D. Increases the likelihood of total fire suppression

Integrating manual extinguishing systems with fire alarms significantly enhances the overall safety and responsiveness of a facility during a fire event by providing immediate fire alerts to occupants. When manual extinguishing systems, such as pull stations or fire hoses, are linked to fire alarms, it ensures that when someone activates a manual extinguishing device, an alarm is triggered. This immediate alert informs all occupants of the building, allowing for quicker evacuation and increasing the chance that trained personnel can respond effectively with the extinguishing system. This integration plays a crucial role in both proactive and reactive fire safety measures. It enables an earlier response to potential fire incidents, especially when rapid action is necessary to control or suppress the fire before the fire department arrives. By alerting occupants quickly, it allows them to evacuate the premises safely while also empowering those able to do so to combat the fire immediately, potentially minimizing damage and enhancing overall safety. The other options, while related to fire safety, do not directly reflect the primary advantage of integrating these systems. For example, minimizing the need for regular maintenance conflicts with the reality that both systems require regular checks. Similarly, while integration may not directly enhance the reliability of fire services, it does improve the immediate response capabilities of the occupants and first responders. Finally,

8. What is a supervisory signal in a fire alarm system?

- A. An indication of proper system function
- B. An indication that a monitored circuit or device is not functioning properly or is in a fault condition**
- C. An indicator of successful system maintenance
- D. An alert for scheduled system testing

A supervisory signal in a fire alarm system is crucial for ensuring the reliability and operational status of the various components integrated within the system. It specifically indicates that a monitored circuit or device is not functioning properly or is in a fault condition. This type of signal alerts personnel to issues that may not be immediately life-threatening but could affect the overall performance of the fire alarm system. It is essential for maintaining the integrity of the safety systems in place, as it prompts timely inspection, maintenance, or replacement of faulty components to ensure the system remains operational when needed. While other options relate to the overall function and management of the fire alarm system, they do not accurately describe the specific role of a supervisory signal. An indication of proper system function, an indicator of successful system maintenance, and an alert for scheduled system testing cover different aspects of system operations and maintenance but do not identify the critical warning aspect represented by a supervisory signal indicating fault conditions.

9. What role do smoke alarms play in a fire safety plan?

- A. They act as a decorative item in homes
- B. They provide critical early warning of smoke and fire**
- C. They only serve to notify local fire departments
- D. They are primarily used for carbon monoxide detection

Smoke alarms are essential components of a fire safety plan, as they provide critical early warning of smoke and fire. This early detection is crucial for alerting occupants to the presence of danger, giving them precious extra seconds to evacuate the premises and seek safety. The alarms work by sensing smoke particles in the air, which allows them to trigger an audible alarm that can serve as a wake-up signal during the night or alert individuals in various areas of a building. The importance of smoke alarms cannot be overstated, as they significantly reduce the likelihood of injury or loss of life during a fire. Many models also have interconnected features that allow alarms to communicate with one another, ensuring that even if fire and smoke are detected far from where an individual is located, they will still be alerted. In summary, smoke alarms serve a vital role in a fire safety plan by providing early warning, thereby enhancing the safety of occupants in residential and commercial settings. This is fundamentally why the identification of their role as early warning systems is critical for effective fire safety and prevention strategies.

10. What are the two types of photoelectric smoke detectors?

- A. Heat detection and light scattering
- B. Light scattering and light obscuration**
- C. Ionization and photoelectric
- D. Carbon detection and infrared detection

The correct answer identifies the two types of photoelectric smoke detectors as light scattering and light obscuration. Light scattering detectors operate based on the principle that smoke particles entering the detector disrupt the light path from a light source to a sensor. When smoke is present, the particles scatter the light, which triggers the alarm. This type of detection is responsive to smoldering fires, which produce larger particles that are effective at scattering light. Light obscuration detectors, on the other hand, function by measuring the decrease in light intensity due to smoke obstructing the light beam between a light source and a detector. In this case, as smoke fills the detector chamber, it physically blocks some of the light, and the increase of smoke results in a greater degree of light obstruction, signaling an alarm. Both types utilize light in some form to detect smoke but operate under different mechanisms on how they respond to the presence of smoke in the environment.

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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://supervisionoffirealarmsystems.examzify.com>

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

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