

# Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Structural Collapse Level 1 Advanced 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 is hypovolemia?**
  - A. An increased blood volume condition**
  - B. A loss of blood volume that can occur as a result of impacts and injuries to the body as a structure collapses**
  - C. A rapid heart rate**
  - D. A chronic low blood volume state**
  
- 2. Which option correctly defines the cold zone in US&R operations?**
  - A. Cold zone is staging vehicles, equipment, and command post**
  - B. Cold zone is where the rescue occurs**
  - C. Cold zone is for decon**
  - D. Cold zone is hospital triage area**
  
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ is considered to be the number one accountability system?**
  - A. Visual roster**
  - B. Radio Communications**
  - C. Sign-in sheets**
  - D. Digital badges**
  
- 4. Regular prescription glasses and prescription sunglasses are not adequate eye protection. True or False?**
  - A. True**
  - B. False**
  - C. Not specified**
  - D. Only sunglasses are adequate**
  
- 5. If you are searching and must reverse direction after starting left, what should you do?**
  - A. Continue in the same direction**
  - B. Backtrack to the previous area**
  - C. Reverse the process**
  - D. Make a new plan without backtracking**

- 6. What type of gloves are primarily used during a collapse operation?**
- A. Latex disposable gloves**
  - B. Leather work gloves**
  - C. Kevlar gloves**
  - D. Nitrile gloves**
- 7. To determine the last known location of victims, which tool should be used?**
- A. Aerial photos**
  - B. Local maps**
  - C. Satellite weather reports**
  - D. Census data**
- 8. The Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) is defined as what?**
- A. A single rescuer**
  - B. Two or more personnel designated to perform emergency personnel rescue**
  - C. A medical unit**
  - D. A communications team**
- 9. What is the survival rate after 5 days?**
- A. 81%**
  - B. 36.7%**
  - C. 19%**
  - D. 7.4%**
- 10. The pattern search helps prevent overlapping by dividing the area into smaller blocks. This statement is:**
- A. True**
  - B. False**
  - C. Sometimes**
  - D. Not applicable**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. What is hypovolemia?

- A. An increased blood volume condition
- B. A loss of blood volume that can occur as a result of impacts and injuries to the body as a structure collapses**
- C. A rapid heart rate
- D. A chronic low blood volume state

Hypovolemia is a decrease in circulating blood volume, which reduces preload and perfusion to tissues. In a structural collapse, this can happen from crush injuries and bleeding where blood is lost externally or internally. The option that describes a loss of blood volume resulting from injuries during a collapse captures this acute trauma scenario and is the best fit. An increased blood volume describes the opposite condition, a rapid heart rate is a sign or response rather than the definition, and a chronic low blood volume state refers to a long-standing issue, not an acute loss during a collapse. In practice, recognizing hypovolemia is critical for prioritizing hemorrhage control and rapid transport.

## 2. Which option correctly defines the cold zone in US&R operations?

- A. Cold zone is staging vehicles, equipment, and command post**
- B. Cold zone is where the rescue occurs
- C. Cold zone is for decon
- D. Cold zone is hospital triage area

In US&R operations, the scene is divided by hazard and function, and the cold zone is the area outside the immediate danger where support operations are organized. It houses the base or command post and the staging area for vehicles and equipment, allowing leaders to coordinate, rest, and manage resources without exposure to hazards. This separation from the collapse zone keeps operations safe and efficient while the actual rescue happens in the hot zone and decontamination occurs in the warm zone. The other activities described align with those other zones: rescuing people occurs where hazards are present, and decontamination happens in the warm zone to protect the cold zone from contamination. Hospital triage is typically conducted in a medical area associated with the incident but not the defining function of the cold zone.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ is considered to be the number one accountability system?

- A. Visual roster
- B. Radio Communications**
- C. Sign-in sheets
- D. Digital badges

Maintaining accountability in a structural collapse operation hinges on real-time, two-way communication. Radio communications are the primary tool because they provide instant updates on who is where, what their status is, and what hazards are present, enabling incident command to keep everyone safe and aligned as conditions on the scene change. Visual rosters and sign-in sheets, while useful for initial entry, quickly go out of date as teams move, rotate tasks, or operate inside hazardous zones. Digital badges can assist, but they rely on systems that may fail or be unavailable in a collapse environment. Radios keep the accountability picture current and actionable, which is essential for safe and effective operations.

4. Regular prescription glasses and prescription sunglasses are not adequate eye protection. True or False?

- A. True**
- B. False
- C. Not specified
- D. Only sunglasses are adequate

Eye protection in structural collapse work must resist high-velocity debris and protect the entire orbital area. Regular prescription glasses and prescription sunglasses are designed for vision correction and glare control, not for industrial impact hazards. They often lack the protective coverage needed (no adequate side shields, not tested to withstand debris impacts, and they can break or dislodge in dynamic rescue motions). In collapse environments, particles, concrete dust, sharp fragments, and splashes are common, so you need protective eyewear that is impact-rated, provides side protection, and seals well around the eyes. That's why they're not considered adequate on their own. If corrective vision is required, use prescription safety glasses that meet the appropriate standards (such as impact-rated lenses with side shields) or wear safety goggles over prescription lenses, or use a full-face shield as appropriate.

**5. If you are searching and must reverse direction after starting left, what should you do?**

- A. Continue in the same direction**
- B. Backtrack to the previous area**
- C. Reverse the process**
- D. Make a new plan without backtracking**

When you need to change direction after starting to the left, you should reverse the process. Turn around and apply the same systematic sweep in the opposite direction so you re-check the area you just crossed with the same method. This keeps the search pattern complete and consistent, creating overlap that helps you detect voids and avoid gaps. Continuing in the same direction would leave the areas on the other side unscanned. Simply backtracking to the exact previous point can be inefficient and disrupts the orderly sweep. Crafting a brand-new plan without returning along the same path can cause you to miss sections you've already scanned. So, reversing the process—sweeping back through the area with the same method—is the best way to maintain a thorough, controlled search.

**6. What type of gloves are primarily used during a collapse operation?**

- A. Latex disposable gloves**
- B. Leather work gloves**
- C. Kevlar gloves**
- D. Nitrile gloves**

Protection during collapse work focuses on guarding hands against sharp, rough debris while preserving grip and dexterity. Leather work gloves provide that balance: the thick leather resists cuts and punctures from nails, glass, and rubble, and the textured surface offers solid grip on tools and materials. They're durable for heavy handling and can be worn with liners if extra insulation or cut resistance is needed. Disposable latex or nitrile gloves are too thin for rugged debris—they're great for contamination control but tear easily under rubble. Kevlar gloves offer good cut resistance but can compromise grip and durability for heavy abrasion tasks, so they're used selectively rather than as the standard. For these reasons, leather work gloves are the primary choice in collapse operations.

**7. To determine the last known location of victims, which tool should be used?**

- A. Aerial photos**
- B. Local maps**
- C. Satellite weather reports**
- D. Census data**

Determining the last known location of victims relies on precise, on-site references that map the built environment. Local maps provide the most detailed, current depiction of the structure's interior and layout—floor plans, room numbers, stairwells, corridors, and access routes—so you can anchor the search to the exact areas where a victim could have been identified last. Aerial photos offer a broad view of the site and can help spot external hazards or overall layout, but they lack interior detail and can be out of date, making them less reliable for pinpointing a specific room or floor. Satellite weather reports focus on environmental conditions, not where someone might be inside a collapsed structure. Census data gives demographic information, not current positioning in a specific incident. Therefore, local maps are the best tool for this task.

**8. The Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) is defined as what?**

- A. A single rescuer**
- B. Two or more personnel designated to perform emergency personnel rescue**
- C. A medical unit**
- D. A communications team**

RIT is a dedicated group formed to stand by and rapidly intervene to rescue firefighters who are in danger. The correct definition is two or more personnel designated to perform emergency personnel rescue. This matters because rescuing a trapped or distressed firefighter in a collapse or hazardous environment requires teamwork, redundancy, and specialized tasks such as tool deployment, airway/air supply monitoring, and coordinating with incident command. A single rescuer cannot safely handle the complex, time-critical needs of a rescue, whereas a team can split duties, maintain safety, and ensure a quicker, more controlled extraction. RIT is distinct from medical units or communications teams, whose roles cover medical care and incident communication, not the actual firefighter rescue. Activation comes when incident command identifies a firefighter in distress, and the team is prepared to move in with a planned rescue approach and the appropriate gear.

**9. What is the survival rate after 5 days?**

- A. 81%**
- B. 36.7%**
- C. 19%**
- D. 7.4%**

Survival rate after a fixed time is the portion of the original group that remains alive at that time, reflecting how hazards accumulate over days in a high-risk environment. Five days into a collapse scenario, attrition tends to be steep, so a very low survival figure is expected. Think of survival as compounding each day: the overall five-day survival is the daily survival rate raised to the fifth power. If the five-day survival is about 7.4%, that means the daily survival rate is roughly the fifth root of 0.074, which is about 0.59 (roughly 59%). In other words, about 59% of the remaining individuals survive each day, and after five consecutive days that compounds to around 7-8% overall. This aligns with the option showing 7.4%. The larger percentages would require much higher daily survival rates or less severe daily attrition, which is less consistent with a scenario where hazards persist across multiple days. Hence the 7.4% value best matches the expected trend of rapid, cumulative loss over five days.

**10. The pattern search helps prevent overlapping by dividing the area into smaller blocks. This statement is:**

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. Sometimes**
- D. Not applicable**

Pattern search uses a systematic approach to cover a collapse site by breaking the area into smaller blocks and searching each block in a defined sequence. This organization defines boundaries so teams don't retrace the same ground, helping ensure every portion is checked and reducing duplication. While a little overlap between blocks may occur to confirm safety or adapt to irregular terrain, the primary purpose of the pattern is to prevent excessive overlapping and to deliver efficient, complete coverage. So the statement is true.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://usrstructuralcollapse1adv.examzify.com>**

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

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