

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE) EM 385-1-1 PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

<https://usace-em385certification.examzify.com>



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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 must be done to any equipment that is damaged or malfunctioning?**
 - A. Repair it immediately
 - B. Remove it from service and replace it
 - C. Test it before use
 - D. Mark it as unsafe
- 2. According to EM 385-1-1, what is required for fire protection on construction sites?**
 - A. Only training for fire awareness
 - B. Fire drills conducted once a year
 - C. Proper fire prevention measures including equipment, training, and drills
 - D. Use of water sources for immediate fire control
- 3. Who is primarily responsible for safety on USACE projects?**
 - A. USACE project managers
 - B. The contractor
 - C. Safety officers
 - D. Site workers
- 4. What must be maintained near aerial lift operations at all times?**
 - A. A copy of the local emergency plan
 - B. The manufacturer's operations manual
 - C. A log of daily workers
 - D. The site-specific safety plan
- 5. At what point should a site safety plan be established?**
 - A. Only after safety incidents
 - B. During project planning
 - C. When required by workers
 - D. After project completion
- 6. What role does leadership play in the implementation of EM 385-1-1?**
 - A. Leadership is not involved in safety implementations
 - B. Leadership must enforce safety policies and protocols
 - C. Only frontline workers are responsible for safety
 - D. Leadership can choose to ignore training requirements

- 7. What must be documented in writing according to USACE procedures?**
- A. All verbal communications
 - B. Every training conducted
 - C. Project budgets and expenditures
 - D. Weather conditions on the site
- 8. What is the minimum height at which workers must use fall protection equipment?**
- A. 4 feet
 - B. 6 feet
 - C. 8 feet
 - D. 10 feet
- 9. What action is required if there's a risk of drowning on a job site?**
- A. Use of helmets
 - B. Providing PFDs
 - C. Employing safety nets
 - D. Conducting evacuation drills
- 10. For complex or high hazard projects, what is a requirement for the SSHO's experience?**
- A. At least 5 years of any work experience
 - B. 10 years of unrelated work experience
 - C. 10 years of safety-related work with 5 years in similar projects
 - D. 5 years of experience only

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What must be done to any equipment that is damaged or malfunctioning?

- A. Repair it immediately
- B. Remove it from service and replace it**
- C. Test it before use
- D. Mark it as unsafe

The requirement to remove damaged or malfunctioning equipment from service and replace it is important for maintaining safety and operational integrity. Equipment that is compromised can pose significant risks to personnel, assets, and project outcomes. By removing it from service, you prevent potential accidents or failures that could cause injuries or further damage. This action ensures that only equipment in good working condition is used in operations. It is part of a proactive approach to safety management, as stipulated in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers safety regulations. It also emphasizes the commitment to maintaining a safe work environment by minimizing risks associated with faulty machinery. Alternatively, while immediate repairs might be necessary in some cases, relying solely on repairs without thorough assessment could lead to continued use of unsafe equipment. Likewise, testing equipment before use does not address the underlying issue of ensuring that the equipment is fundamentally safe and reliable; it might still pose a danger even if it passes initial tests. Marking equipment as unsafe without taking action doesn't resolve the risk it poses. Thus, removing and replacing damaged equipment aligns with best practices in safety management.

2. According to EM 385-1-1, what is required for fire protection on construction sites?

- A. Only training for fire awareness
- B. Fire drills conducted once a year
- C. Proper fire prevention measures including equipment, training, and drills**
- D. Use of water sources for immediate fire control

The requirement for fire protection on construction sites, as outlined in EM 385-1-1, emphasizes the necessity of comprehensive fire prevention measures that encompass a multi-faceted approach. This includes having the appropriate firefighting equipment readily available on site, ensuring that personnel are trained in fire safety practices, and conducting drills to prepare workers for emergency situations. This holistic strategy is crucial because it not only promotes immediate response capabilities in the event of a fire but also fosters a culture of safety awareness among workers. Proper equipment, such as fire extinguishers and hoses, must be accessible and regularly inspected to ensure they are in working order. Training on how to use this equipment effectively prepares workers to act swiftly and confidently in emergencies. Regular drills reinforce this training, allowing personnel to practice their response to a fire scenario, thereby increasing their readiness and decreasing the likelihood of panic during an actual emergency. The other options do not capture the comprehensive nature of what is required. Just training for fire awareness, for instance, would not sufficiently prepare workers without the inclusion of proper equipment and drills. Fire drills merely once a year may not be frequent enough to ensure that workers retain their skills, while relying solely on water sources does not address all aspects of fire prevention and emergency response.

3. Who is primarily responsible for safety on USACE projects?

- A. USACE project managers
- B. The contractor**
- C. Safety officers
- D. Site workers

The contractor is primarily responsible for safety on USACE projects because they have direct control over the work environment and the workers conducting the tasks. Under the guidelines established by EM 385-1-1, the contractor is tasked with implementing safety measures, ensuring compliance with safety regulations, and maintaining an overall safe work site. This responsibility includes providing adequate training for employees, conducting safety inspections, and fostering a culture of safety among all personnel on the project. While other parties, such as USACE project managers and safety officers, play important roles in overseeing and supporting safety efforts, the ultimate responsibility lies with the contractor. They are in the best position to enforce safety protocols, respond to hazards, and ensure that all workers adhere to the established safety standards. Additionally, site workers are responsible for following safety guidelines but do not hold the overarching accountability for the safety management of the project itself.

4. What must be maintained near aerial lift operations at all times?

- A. A copy of the local emergency plan
- B. The manufacturer's operations manual**
- C. A log of daily workers
- D. The site-specific safety plan

The correct answer is that the manufacturer's operations manual must be maintained near aerial lift operations at all times. This manual is essential because it contains important safety information, operational procedures, and specifications related to the specific aerial lift being used. Adhering to the manufacturer's guidelines is critical to ensure safe operation, reduce the risk of accidents, and enhance the overall effectiveness of the lift's performance. When workers have immediate access to the operations manual, they can refer to it for troubleshooting, understanding safety protocols, and following proper operating procedures. This accessibility is vital for making informed decisions and responding effectively to any issues that may arise during use. Other options, while important in their own right, do not specifically address the immediate operational safety and guidelines needed for aerial lift operations. The local emergency plan and the site-specific safety plan are crucial for overall site safety, but they do not replace the specific operational guidance provided by the manufacturer's manual. A log of daily workers, while helpful for tracking personnel, does not contribute directly to the safe operation of the aerial lift itself.

5. At what point should a site safety plan be established?

- A. Only after safety incidents
- B. During project planning**
- C. When required by workers
- D. After project completion

A site safety plan should be established during project planning to ensure that safety measures are integrated into the project from the very beginning. This proactive approach allows for the identification of potential hazards, the assessment of risks, and the development of strategies to mitigate those risks before any work begins. By incorporating safety planning early in the project lifecycle, teams can ensure compliance with regulations and standards, promote a culture of safety, and protect workers from potential injuries or incidents that could arise during the execution of the project. Establishing a safety plan only after safety incidents or upon the request of workers undermines the importance of preemptive measures and could lead to unnecessary accidents. Additionally, waiting until after project completion neglects the ongoing nature of safety management, which should be active throughout the entire project duration.

6. What role does leadership play in the implementation of EM 385-1-1?

- A. Leadership is not involved in safety implementations
- B. Leadership must enforce safety policies and protocols**
- C. Only frontline workers are responsible for safety
- D. Leadership can choose to ignore training requirements

Leadership plays a vital role in the implementation of EM 385-1-1, particularly in the enforcement of safety policies and protocols. Effective leadership is essential to establish a strong safety culture within an organization. Leaders are responsible for ensuring that all employees are aware of and adhere to safety standards and practices set forth in EM 385-1-1. By actively promoting safety protocols, leadership helps to create an environment where employees understand the importance of compliance, leading to a reduction in accidents and incidents. Leadership also involves providing the necessary resources, training, and support for safety initiatives, thereby demonstrating a commitment to the well-being of all personnel. This active engagement not only motivates employees to prioritize safety but also fosters a sense of accountability at all levels of the organization. Ultimately, strong leadership is crucial for the successful implementation and sustainability of safety practices outlined in EM 385-1-1.

7. What must be documented in writing according to USACE procedures?

- A. All verbal communications
- B. Every training conducted**
- C. Project budgets and expenditures
- D. Weather conditions on the site

Every training conducted must be documented in writing according to USACE procedures. This requirement is crucial for several reasons. Documentation ensures that there is a clear record of the training provided, including details such as the type of training, the number of participants, the dates it was conducted, and the qualifications of the trainers. This not only helps in verifying that employees have received the necessary training to perform their jobs safely and effectively, but it also demonstrates compliance with legal and regulatory obligations. Written documentation serves as an essential tool for accountability and helps facilitate continuous improvement within the organization. It allows for the assessment of training effectiveness and can be referenced during audits or inspections to confirm that proper training protocols are being followed. Overall, maintaining written records of training reinforces a culture of safety and competence in operations.

8. What is the minimum height at which workers must use fall protection equipment?

- A. 4 feet
- B. 6 feet**
- C. 8 feet
- D. 10 feet

In construction activities, the minimum height at which workers are required to use fall protection equipment is 6 feet. This standard is set to minimize the risk of injuries from falls, which are one of the leading causes of serious injuries and fatalities in the construction industry. At heights of 6 feet or more, the likelihood of injury from a fall increases significantly, making it essential for employers to implement fall protection measures to safeguard their workers. This includes the use of harnesses, guardrails, safety nets, and other means of fall protection. While fall protection guidelines may vary by specific industry standards or specific situations, the 6-foot threshold is a widely recognized baseline in many regulations including those of OSHA and the USACE, highlighting its importance in the context of worker safety.

9. What action is required if there's a risk of drowning on a job site?

- A. Use of helmets
- B. Providing PFDs**
- C. Employing safety nets
- D. Conducting evacuation drills

Providing personal flotation devices (PFDs) is crucial in situations where there is a risk of drowning on a job site. PFDs are designed to keep a person afloat in water, significantly increasing their chances of survival if they fall into a body of water or are submerged. The use of PFDs is a mandated safety measure in environments such as construction sites near bodies of water, where employees may be exposed to drowning hazards. The decision to prioritize PFDs aligns with safety regulations and best practices to mitigate specific risks associated with water activities. Ensuring that workers wear PFDs can not only provide immediate protection but also foster a culture of safety where employees are aware of the risks and the safety measures in place to protect them. Other measures, while also important, do not specifically address the immediate risk of drowning as effectively as PFDs. Helmets, safety nets, and evacuation drills serve different safety purposes and may not be effective in preventing drowning incidents directly. Helmets protect against head injuries, safety nets can capture falling personnel or objects, and evacuation drills are essential for emergency preparedness but do not provide direct protection against drowning in water-related situations.

10. For complex or high hazard projects, what is a requirement for the SSHO's experience?

- A. At least 5 years of any work experience
- B. 10 years of unrelated work experience
- C. 10 years of safety-related work with 5 years in similar projects**
- D. 5 years of experience only

The requirement that specifies the SSHO (Site Safety and Health Officer) must have 10 years of safety-related work experience, with at least 5 years specifically in similar projects, is essential for ensuring the safety and health management on complex or high hazard projects. This extensive background is necessary because these types of projects often come with unique challenges and hazards that require a deep understanding of both safety protocols and best practices. Having 10 years of experience in safety-related work indicates that the SSHO has a broad exposure to various safety issues, regulations, and strategies, which is crucial for effectively managing risks and ensuring compliance on site. The additional requirement of 5 years in similar projects means that the SSHO is not only experienced in safety management but also familiar with the specific challenges and needs of the project at hand. This level of expertise helps in making informed decisions, conducting thorough risk assessments, and implementing effective safety programs that cater to the unique aspects of high hazard environments. This combination of experience guarantees that the SSHO is well-equipped to handle the complexities associated with safety management in challenging work scenarios.

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://usace-em385certification.examzify.com>

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

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