# Wichita Fire Department Rescue And Search Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide


**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

# Questions

**1. What role does thermal imaging play in drone-assisted search and rescue?**

**A. It allows drones to fly at higher altitudes**

**B. It helps locate people in low visibility conditions**

**C. It increases the flight time of the drone**

**D. It is used primarily for data collection post-rescue**

**2. What is the primary purpose of attending search and rescue training?**

**A. To improve physical fitness levels**

**B. To learn new firefighting techniques**

**C. To enhance skills for real-life emergencies**

**D. To familiarize with firefighting equipment**

**3. Post-1945 construction primarily introduced which material for interior wall coverings?**

**A. Lath and plaster**

**B. Drywall**

**C. Plywood**

**D. Fiberboard**

**4. What is Split Search typically performed under?**

**A. Unfavorable conditions**

**B. Comfortable crew**

**C. Fire attack is in place**

**D. Heavy smoke and heat**

**5. What is the first step in a successful search and rescue operation?**

**A. Identifying potential hazards**

**B. Locating the fire source**

**C. Using thermal imaging**

**D. Establishing a communication plan**

**6. What are the two objectives of a search operation?**

- **A. Locate victims and locate equipment**
- **B. Locate fire and locate life**
- **C. Locate evidence and locate survivors**
- **D. Locate hazards and locate safety**

**7. Unreinforced Masonry buildings are easily recognized by which of the following characteristics?**

- **A. Flat rooflines**
- **B. Kings Rows of brick**
- **C. Metal frames**
- **D. Vinyl siding**

**8. What percentage of fire victims is typically found in bedrooms?**

- **A. 25%**
- **B. 42%**
- **C. 50%**
- **D. 17%**

**9. What is the main focus during a primary search?**

- **A. To locate all fire hazards**
- **B. To assess structural stability**
- **C. To find victims and evaluate their safety**
- **D. To inspect the exterior of the building**

**10. Why is flexibility in operational plans important for rescuers?**

- **A. Because it allows for quicker decision-making**
- **B. Conditions can change rapidly; being adaptable ensures response effectiveness**
- **C. It lets rescuers act based on personal preferences**
- **D. Flexibility is not important as plans should be strictly followed**

# Answers

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

# Explanations

## 1. What role does thermal imaging play in drone-assisted search and rescue?

**A. It allows drones to fly at higher altitudes**

**B. It helps locate people in low visibility conditions**

**C. It increases the flight time of the drone**

**D. It is used primarily for data collection post-rescue**

**Thermal imaging plays a critical role in drone-assisted search and rescue by enhancing the ability to locate individuals in low visibility conditions. This technology detects heat emitted by objects, allowing rescuers to identify the presence of people, even when they are obscured by darkness, fog, or dense vegetation. In scenarios where conventional visual searching may fail, thermal imaging can pinpoint body heat signatures, significantly improving the chances of a successful rescue. This capability not only accelerates the identification of missing persons but also enhances overall operational efficiency and effectiveness during search missions. The other choices do not accurately describe the primary function of thermal imaging in this context. While thermal imaging does not contribute to increased flight altitude or flight time, it serves a specific and vital role in helping emergency responders locate individuals in challenging conditions. Additionally, while data collection is important after rescue operations, thermal imaging's primary benefit in this scenario pertains to real-time search efforts, rather than post-rescue analysis.**

## 2. What is the primary purpose of attending search and rescue training?

**A. To improve physical fitness levels**

**B. To learn new firefighting techniques**

**C. To enhance skills for real-life emergencies**

**D. To familiarize with firefighting equipment**

**The primary purpose of attending search and rescue training is to enhance skills for real-life emergencies. This training focuses on preparing individuals to respond effectively to various scenarios that may involve saving lives, locating missing persons, and providing critical assistance in unpredictable situations. It equips participants with the necessary knowledge and practical skills to navigate complex environments, utilize rescue tools, and operate as part of a team under pressure. While improving physical fitness and familiarizing oneself with equipment may be components of a well-rounded training program, the core goal is to ensure that responders are capable of acting decisively and competently in actual rescue operations. Additionally, learning new firefighting techniques might be beneficial for those in the fire service, but it is not the central aim of search and rescue training, which is specifically tailored to address the unique challenges of rescuing individuals in distress.**

## 3. Post-1945 construction primarily introduced which material for interior wall coverings?

**A. Lath and plaster**

**B. Drywall**

**C. Plywood**

**D. Fiberboard**

**The introduction of drywall, also known as gypsum board or plasterboard, revolutionized interior wall construction after 1945. This material became the industry standard due to its ease of installation, affordability, and fire resistance. Drywall allows for faster construction compared to traditional methods such as lath and plaster, which require multiple steps and more labor-intensive work. Additionally, drywall provides a smooth surface that can be easily finished and painted, leading to its widespread adoption in both residential and commercial buildings. It also offers improved moisture resistance when treated, making it suitable for various environments. The combination of these benefits contributed to drywall's dominance in the construction sector following World War II, as builders sought efficient solutions to meet the growing demand for housing and commercial space during the post-war boom.**

## 4. What is Split Search typically performed under?

**A. Unfavorable conditions**

**B. Comfortable crew**

**C. Fire attack is in place**

**D. Heavy smoke and heat**

**Split Search is typically performed under conditions where a comfortable crew is available to operate effectively. This method involves dividing the search team into smaller groups, allowing for a more efficient search of a structure. When the crew is comfortable, they are usually better prepared to handle the operations required, including communication, coordination, and stamina throughout the duration of the search. The need for comfort often relates to situational awareness and cognitive functions; when firefighters are not under extreme stress or harsh conditions, they can think and act more clearly. In split searching, having a crew that can operate in a composed manner enhances their ability to navigate and search effectively, making decisions that could be crucial for victim recovery. Moreover, environments that are uncomfortable or hazardous typically demand a different approach, focusing more on survival tactics rather than efficient search strategies. Other answers provide scenarios that would not support the optimal condition for executing a split search effectively.**

## 5. What is the first step in a successful search and rescue operation?

**A. Identifying potential hazards**

**B. Locating the fire source**

**C. Using thermal imaging**

**D. Establishing a communication plan**

**The first step in a successful search and rescue operation is identifying potential hazards. This is crucial because understanding the environment in which rescuers are operating enables them to assess risks and prevent further injury to both rescuers and victims. By recognizing potential hazards such as structural instability, fire, smoke, and toxic gases, the team can formulate a strategy that ensures safety while conducting the search and rescue.  Identifying hazards also informs later decisions about where to proceed and how to approach the situation. Once hazards are assessed and accounted for, rescuers can then employ methods like locating the fire source, utilizing thermal imaging, and establishing a communication plan with a clearer understanding of the risks involved. This foundational step lays the groundwork for an effective and safe rescue operation, ultimately enhancing the chances of success.**

## 6. What are the two objectives of a search operation?

**A. Locate victims and locate equipment**

**B. Locate fire and locate life**

**C. Locate evidence and locate survivors**

**D. Locate hazards and locate safety**

**The primary objectives of a search operation during firefighting or rescue missions focus on locating those in danger and ensuring their safety. The correct answer emphasizes the critical aspects of a search operation: locating life, which pertains to finding individuals who may be trapped or in need of assistance, and responding to a fire, which signifies understanding and addressing the immediate danger presented by the fire itself.  When dealing with emergencies, the priority is always to save lives. Firefighters are trained to assess situations where individuals might be in peril due to smoke, fire, or hazardous conditions. Identifying the victims is crucial to implementing effective rescue strategies. At the same time, understanding fire dynamics and its progression helps responders execute their operations safely and effectively, directing focus on protecting individuals while managing the fire threat.  The other options, while they may contain elements relevant to emergency response, do not encapsulate the primary two objectives of a search operation as clearly as this choice does. They either address less critical aspects or situation-specific elements that do not align with the fundamental goals of a search operation focused on prioritizing human life amidst hazardous conditions.**

## 7. Unreinforced Masonry buildings are easily recognized by which of the following characteristics?

**A. Flat rooflines**

**B. Kings Rows of brick**

**C. Metal frames**

**D. Vinyl siding**

**Unreinforced masonry buildings are primarily characterized by their structural composition, and the presence of king rows of brick is a defining feature. King rows, or courses of headers, are horizontal rows of bricks that often appear in the construction of such buildings, providing a distinct appearance associated with masonry work. They demonstrate a traditional style of construction where bricks are laid without the internal reinforcement that could enhance structural integrity. In contrast, flat rooflines can be found in various types of buildings, not just unreinforced masonry, as they are typically a design choice rather than a structural characteristic. Metal frames are indicative of a different type of construction, typically seen in modern buildings that require lightweight structures, which would not align with the unreinforced masonry style. Vinyl siding is an exterior finishing material commonly used in contemporary constructions that do not relate directly to the characteristics of unreinforced masonry. Thus, king rows of brick stand out as a hallmark feature of unreinforced masonry buildings, highlighting the traditional methods of construction and the specific materials used in their formation.**

## 8. What percentage of fire victims is typically found in bedrooms?

**A. 25%**

**B. 42%**

**C. 50%**

**D. 17%**

**The correct answer is 42%, which reflects the significant proportion of fire victims who are located in bedrooms during incidents. This high percentage is critical for understanding the dynamics of fire spread and the behavior of fire in residential settings. Bedrooms are often where individuals are found during a fire, primarily because people typically sleep there at night. Additionally, the design of many homes, along with the placement of smoke detectors, can lead to situations where occupants may not be alerted to a fire in time to escape. Furthermore, many fires originate in common areas or kitchens, but tend to spread quickly and impact the bedrooms where victims might be trapped by smoke or flames. This reinforces the importance of closing bedroom doors while sleeping, having functioning smoke alarms in place, and ensuring that escape routes are clear. Knowing that such a significant percentage of victims is found in bedrooms highlights the need for specific preventive measures and safety education aimed at occupants to reduce fatalities in these critical areas.**

## 9. What is the main focus during a primary search?

**A. To locate all fire hazards**

**B. To assess structural stability**

**C. To find victims and evaluate their safety**

**D. To inspect the exterior of the building**

**The primary search is a critical operation in firefighting and rescue situations, where the immediate aim is to locate victims who may be trapped or in danger within a structure. During this phase, personnel are trained to quickly and efficiently search areas where victims could be present, prioritizing their safety and well-being. This involves entering the building, checking rooms, and moving through spaces where individuals may be incapacitated or unable to evacuate on their own. In executing a primary search, firefighters may not have the luxury of time to perform detailed assessments of all hazards or structural integrity; instead, their focus remains on swiftly finding those in need and providing necessary assistance. By locating victims and assessing their condition, responders can implement life-saving measures and coordinate further rescue operations. The other options, while important aspects of fireground operations, do not align with the immediate purpose of the primary search. For instance, while locating fire hazards and assessing structural stability are essential to ensuring overall safety, those tasks typically fall under secondary searches or assessments conducted when the immediate danger to human life has been addressed. Similarly, inspecting the exterior of the building is generally more relevant to understanding the fire's origin or flow, rather than the urgent task of rescuing individuals.**

## 10. Why is flexibility in operational plans important for rescuers?

**A. Because it allows for quicker decision-making**

**B. Conditions can change rapidly; being adaptable ensures response effectiveness**

**C. It lets rescuers act based on personal preferences**

**D. Flexibility is not important as plans should be strictly followed**

**Flexibility in operational plans is crucial for rescuers because conditions in emergency situations can change unexpectedly. Being adaptable allows rescuers to modify their approach in real-time, which enhances their effectiveness in responding to dynamic situations. For instance, if a search and rescue operation is underway and new information emerges about hazards, victim locations, or environmental conditions, a flexible plan enables rescuers to pivot quickly without being hindered by a rigid framework. This adaptability can lead to more efficient operations, increased safety for both victims and rescuers, and ultimately better outcomes in emergency response scenarios.**