STUDY BOOKLET

MOBILE COUNTY PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

MERIT SYSTEM

FIREFIGHTER

PRE-EXAMINATION STUDY BOOKLET

Directions to Applicant: The material in this booklet has been designed to prepare you for the upcoming written examination for Firefighter.

DO NOT bring this study booklet to the written examination test site.

Mobile County Personnel Board
Post Office Box 66794
Mobile, AL 36660-1794

Firefighter: 12/19/2019 Revised Edition - online

TABLE OF CONTENTS

What This Booklet And The Test Are About

This booklet has been prepared by the staff of the Mobile County Personnel Department in order to help you prepare for the Firefighter written test. The written test, which is only part of the selection process for firefighter positions, consists of 100 multiple-choice questions and has an overall time limit of three hours.

The test is divided into Section A consisting of four parts and Section B consisting of four parts. In this study booklet, each of the eight parts is described and sample questions are presented.

The test is designed so that you must carefully study and learn the material contained in Section A of this booklet. The material in Section B of the test is for illustrative purposes only and no special preparation is required. You should become familiar with the type of questions which will be asked in Section B.

Hints For Doing Your Best On The Test

1. Study the pre-examination booklet thoroughly and carefully.

2. Do not wait until the last minute to study.

3. Study the booklet with a friend or relative.

4. You may call the Mobile County Personnel Department (251) 470-7727 if you have questions.

5. You may choose to attend a seminar at the Personnel Department offered on the third Wednesday of each month in order to become familiar with testing procedures and answer sheets. The seminar is offered on a first come first serve basis. (See the official announcement for Firefighter for further details.)

6. Your test score will be based upon the number of questions you answer correctly so it will be to your advantage to answer all 100 questions.

7. Some questions will be more difficult than others so do not spend too much time on any one question.

8. Acquire a good night's rest and a healthy meal prior to taking the test.

DO NOT BRING THIS BOOKLET TO THE TEST SITE

Contents of Section A

You must study and learn these materials since you will not be allowed to bring this study booklet with you to the test.

Section A - Part 1

Professional Vocabulary

This part of the test measures your ability to understand the meaning of words often used in firefighting. You should learn the meanings of all the words listed before taking the test.

You will **NOT** have these definitions to refer to during the test. If you have any difficulty understanding the meanings of these words (or any other word in this booklet), you should consult a dictionary before taking the test.

Vocabulary List and Definitions

Fire point

The temperature at which a liquid fuel will produce vapors sufficient to support continuous combustion once ignited. The fire point is usually a few degrees above the flash point.

Continued on the Next Page

Vocabulary Continued:

Flash point

The minimum temperature at which a liquid fuel gives off sufficient vapors to form an ignitable mixture with the air near the surface. At this temperature, the ignited vapors will flash but will not continue to burn.

Conduction

Heat may be transferred from one body to another by direct contact of the two bodies or by an intervening heat-conducting medium.

Convection

The transfer of heat by the movement of air or liquid.

Backdraft

Occurs when an oxygen-starved fire in an enclosure suddenly gets enough oxygen under conditions that will cause an explosion.

Ventilation

The systematic removal and replacement of heated air, smoke, and gases from a structure with cooler air.

Class A fires

Fires involving ordinary combustible materials such as wood, cloth, paper, rubber, and many plastics. Water and Class A foams are used for extinguishment of Class A fires.

Class B fires

Fires involving flammable and combustible liquids and gases such as gasoline, oil, lacquers, paints, mineral spirits, and alcohols. The smothering or blanketing effect of oxygen exclusion is most effective for extinguishment of Class B fires.

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Vocabulary Continued:

Class C fires

Fires involving energized electrical equipment such as household appliances, computers, transformers and overhead transmission lines are examples of Class C fires. Extinguishment of these fires can sometimes be controlled by a nonconducting extinguishing agent such as Halon, dry chemical, or carbon dioxide; or extinguishment can be accomplished by first de-energizing high voltage circuits and then treating the fire as a Class A or Class B fire, depending upon the fuel involved.

Class D fires

Fires that involve combustible metals such as aluminum, magnesium, titanium, zirconium, sodium, and potassium. There is no single agent available that will effectively control fires in all combustible metals, but special extinguishing agents are available for control of a fire in each of the specific metals.

Shoring

When rescuing victims from collapsed buildings firefighters prevent further collapse of the building by using shoring, a process of erecting a series of timbers or jacks to strengthen a wall or to prevent further collapse.

Pressure

When used in fire service terms, pressure is the velocity of water in a conduit (either pipe or hose) of a certain size. Pressure, in the fire service sense, is measured in pounds per square inch (psi).

Friction loss

The part of total pressure that is lost while forcing water through pipe, fittings, fire hose, and adapters.

Overhaul

Consists of the search for and extinguishment of hidden or remaining fires; placing the building, its contents, and the fire area in a safe condition and protecting them from the elements; determining the area of origin and cause of the fire; and recognizing and reserving any evidence of arson.

Continued on the Next Page

Vocabulary Continued:

Salvage
Consists of those methods and operating procedures allied to firefighting that aid in reducing fire, water and smoke damage during and after fires.

Mushrooming
Occurs when smoke and heat travel upward to the top floor of a building and then, unable to escape or travel further upward, spreads horizontally.

Size-up
A quick assessment of a situation to determine the nature and extent of the emergency scene, and decide what resources will be needed to resolve the emergency.

Staging
The collection of fire vehicles at a central location for distribution as needed at a major incident scene.

Triage
The act of sorting patients by the severity of their injuries.

Anterior
Situated in front or in the forward part of the body.

Asphyxia
A decrease in the amount of oxygen and an increase in the amount of carbon dioxide as a result of some interference with respiration.

Heat Exhaustion
Acute reaction to heat exposure. Blood pools in the vessels as the body attempts to give off excessive heat. It can lead to collapse due to inadequate blood return to the heart.

Continued on the Next Page

Vocabulary Continued:

Primary Assessment

First aspect of the patient assessment, designed to determine any immediate threats to the patient's life. It assesses airway, breathing, and circulation, and looks for significant hemorrhage.

Secondary Assessment

Part of the physical assessment process where detailed historical and physical findings are evaluated in order to determine the patient's medical or traumatic problem.

Heat Stroke

A life-threatening condition caused by exposure to excessive heat. Symptoms include dry skin, dizziness, headache, nausea, and muscle cramps.

Vital Signs

Signs of life; pulse, respiration, blood pressure, and temperature.

Posterior

The back or dorsal surface of the body.

Concussion

A temporary loss of partial or all of the abilities of the brain to function without physical damage to the brain.

Anaphylactic Shock

Severe shock caused by an allergic reaction.

Cardiogenic Shock

A state in which not enough oxygen is delivered to the tissues of the body.

Continued on the Next Page

Vocabulary Continued:

Hypovolemic Shock
Condition in which low blood volume, due to either massive internal or external bleeding, results in inadequate perfusion.

Septic Shock
Shock caused by severe bacterial infection.

Defibrillate
To shock a chaotically beating heart with a specialized electric current in an attempt to restore a normal rhythmic beat.

Tachychardia
Rapid heart rhythm

Urticaria
Small spots of generalized itching and/or burning that appear as multiple raised areas on the skin.

Sample Questions for Part 1

1. The transfer of heat by the movement of air is called _____.

   A. conduction
   B. fire point
   C. convection
   D. flash point

2. The term _____ refers to a procedure whereby an electric shock is administered to a chaotically beating heart.

   A. tachychardia
   B. defibrillate
   C. triage
   D. anterior

Section A - Part 2

Radio Codes / Signals

This part of the test measures your ability to understand and learn signal codes and the phonetic alphabet used by all emergency personnel.

On the actual test you will be asked questions about the data listed below. You will **NOT** have this data in front of you when you take the test. To be successful on this part of the test you must learn and recall the information below.

"Ten" Codes

10-4	Acknowledgement (O.K.)
10-8	In Service
10-9	Repeat
10-20	Location
10-23	Arrived at scene

Signal Codes

Signal 7	Traffic Accident, No Injury
Signal 8	Traffic Accident, With Injury
Signal 26	Dead Body
Signal 76	Bomb Threat
Signal 99	Communicable Disease Warning

Continued on next page

Radio Codes / Signals Continued

Phonetic Alphabet

A - Adam	H - Henry	O - Ocean	V - Victor
B - Boy	I - Ida	P - Paul	W - William
C - Charles	J - John	Q - Queen	X - X-Ray
D - David	K - King	R - Robert	Y - Young
E - Edward	L - Lincoln	S - Sam	Z - Zebra
F - Frank	M - Mary	T - Tom	
G - George	N - Nora	U - Union	

Sample Questions for Part 2

3. If a dispatcher alerts Fire Company B of a wreck with injuries, then the dispatcher will give a _____.

   A. 10-20
   B. 10-4
   C. Signal 7
   D. Signal 8

4. The phonetic alphabet equivalent for the letter "U" is _____.

   A. Unison
   B. Union
   C. Uniform
   D. Unity

Section A • Part 3

Policies / Regulations

The third part of Section A measures your ability to remember information and ideas from the sections of a procedures manual presented below. There are three articles in the section: "Fire Company School Inspection Program," "Staging," and "Protective Clothing." **CAREFULLY LEARN THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THESE ARTICLES.** If there are any words in these articles that you do not understand, look them up in the dictionary. You will **NOT** have these materials in front of you when you take the test. To do well on this part of the test, you must comprehend the material presented below.

FIRE COMPANY SCHOOL INSPECTION PROGRAM

All schools through the twelfth grade, both public and private, located in the City and Jurisdiction will be inspected. Guidelines are as follows:

1. Company inspections commences with the school year.

2. Ladder Companies will be the primary inspectors, but Engine Companies may have to assist.

3. Each school will have a total of three inspections a year. Example: Company 5 - Shift 1, Sept-Nov; Shift 2, Dec-Feb; Shift 3, Mar-May

4. Fire Companies will avoid inspections during lunch periods, final exams, and standardized exams.

5. Fire Companies do not need appointments when making inspections.

6. Prior to initiating shift inspections, the Fire Companies should contact the Fire Prevention Bureau and set up a short company training session.

7. The District Chiefs will coordinate the inspection program and maintain Form A. Copies of Form A are to be provided to the Operations Chief at the end of each school year.

8. Inspection Form B will be made out by the Company Officers in duplicate, i.e. 1-copy for company file (maintain for three years); 1-copy to Fire Prevention Bureau.

STAGING

The Staging Procedure provides a standard system of initial placement for responding apparatus, personnel, and equipment prior to assignment at tactical incidents. Effective utilization of this procedure will accomplish the following:

1. prevent excessive apparatus congestion at the scene
2. allow time for Command to evaluate conditions prior to assigning companies
3. place apparatus in an uncommitted location close to the immediate scene to facilitate more effective assignment by Command
4. reduce instances of "free-lancing"
5. allow Command to formulate and implement a plan without undue confusion and pressure.

Staging involves two levels: Level I and Level II.

Level II Staging

Level II Staging will relate to large, complex type multi-alarm situations (such as a high-rise fire) requiring an on-scene reserve of companies either as a precautionary measure or to supplement companies already working at an incident, and will involve formal staging in an area designated by Command. The Staging Area should be away from the Command Post and from the emergency scene in order to provide adequate space for assembly and for safe and effective apparatus movement. When Command requests additional units, he should announce an approximate staging area; all responding companies will report to and remain in the staging area until assigned.

If a staging area is not announced, the first arriving multi-alarm Company Officer shall locate an adequate area for staging and report it to Command. A nearby parking lot, shopping center lot, or school yard are good examples of adequate staging areas. If these are not available, use a side street that would not impede traffic flow. Crews will remain with apparatus until assigned or released.

Command will assign staged companies as needed, telling them where and to whom to report.

Level I Staging

Level I Staging will be automatically applied to all multiple unit responses with the following general directions being followed:

1. The first engine company responding directly to the scene and operating to the best advantage.

2. The first truck company responding directly to the scene and placing the apparatus to the best advantage, generally at the front of the building.

3. The second arriving engine company responding to the nearest fire hydrant (if in an area covered by hydrants) in preparation of laying a supply line into the scene and/or supplying sprinkler/standpipe system.

All other units (regardless of alarm) will stage in their direction of travel, uncommitted, approximately one block from the scene until assigned by Command a position at the scene Staging site should provide for maximization of tactical options with regard to access, direction of travel, water supply, etc.

Staged companies or units will, in normal response situations, report company designation, identify that they are 10-23, standing by and their location. An acknowledgment is not necessary from Communications. Staged companies will stay off the air until orders are received from Command, unless they become forgotten by Command; in such cases, after a reasonable amount of time, they will contact Command and readvise him of their standby status.

Companies should continue response to the scene until company reports on the scene (10-23). When the first unit reports 10-23, Level I staging will begin within these guide-lines. When two engine companies arrive simultaneously on the scene, one of them must assume the responsibility of first arriving engine as outlined above.

Level I Staging is superseded by pre-plan instructions and/or orders from Command.

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

When responding to any fire suppression related alarm, all fire company personnel (except for drivers) shall be wearing their full prescribed protective clothing as issued by the department. The driver and occupants of the front seats in the enclosed cabs are not required to wear their helmets if safety is thought to be compromised. Members driving emergency vehicles shall not wear fire boots or any equipment affecting the safe handling of such vehicle. Fire suppression company personnel will not be required to wear full protective clothing on medical emergencies except for hazardous environment situations.

Each person's turn-out equipment shall be marked with the member's last name and first initial(s). No alteration or modification of turn-out equipment will be allowed by members of the department. The Incident Commander may authorize personnel to remove safety equipment at an incident provided safety is not compromised.

All fire personnel are required to keep their fire equipment in a clean and serviceable condition. A firefighter, while in quarters, shall have his full protective clothing conveniently placed near the apparatus, close to the position where the fire-fighter rides. Any member who loses or damages his fire equipment beyond repair shall submit an incident report to his District Chief explaining what happened to it.

Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) Devices will be armed by all department members whenever they are in any location where the atmosphere is, or may possibly be, contaminated or oxygen deficient. This device will also be armed whenever any member of the department is operating in any Fire Suppression or Hazardous Condition. It is the Captain's responsibility to direct and ensure that his personnel arm and wear the PASS Device in all above mentioned situations and at other incidents not requiring the use of a Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), (Example: Wood Fires). This device will be worn on the waist harness belt of the SCBA on the left side behind the regulator. It is the responsibility of the firefighter to test the PASS Device the first thing each morning, while checking his/her assigned SCBA.

Continued on the Next Page

Sample Questions for Part 3

5. In Level I Staging, the second arriving engine company should _____.

A. respond to the nearest fire hydrant
B. respond directly to the scene
C. place the fire apparatus in the front of the building
D. locate an adequate area for staging and report it to Command

TURN TO THE NEXT PAGE

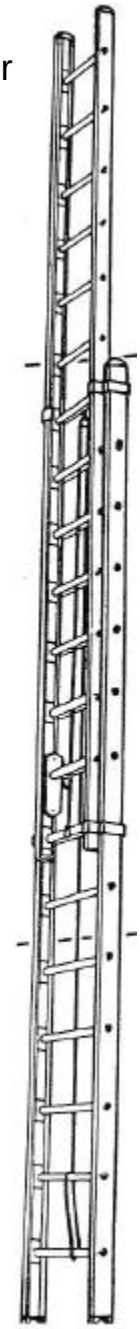
Section A - Part 4

Read and Comprehend Related Documents

In this section of the test you will be given pictures of various objects, such as tools and equipment that firefighters are exposed to in training or utilize on their job. There will be a brief explanation of the objects under each picture. To do well on this part of the test, you must learn and remember the pictorial and descriptive material presented below.

Picture A

Extension Ladder: A ladder with a base section and one or more extendible sections that permit length adjustment. Generally range in length from 24 to 39 feet. Extension ladders developed after 1984 must be rated for a total weight of up to 750 pounds.



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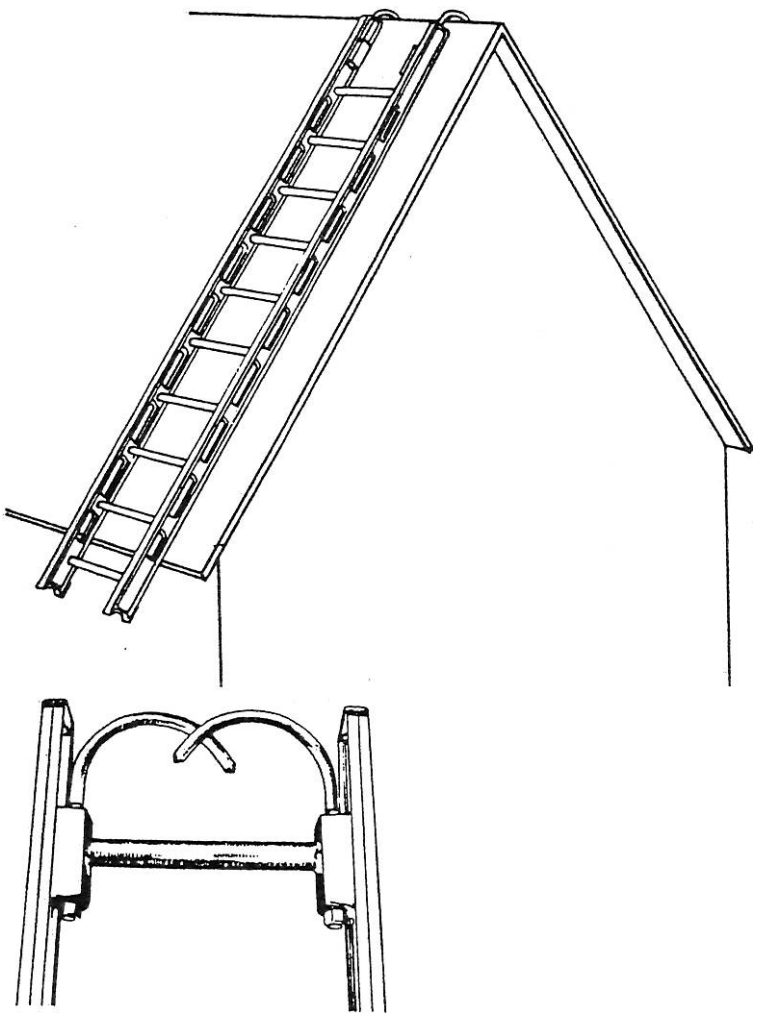
Ladders Continued:

Picture B

Roof Ladder: Single ladders equipped at the tip with folding hooks that anchor the ladder over the roof ridge of a building. Their lengths range from 12 to 20 feet, and they are rated for a total weight load of up to 750 pounds.



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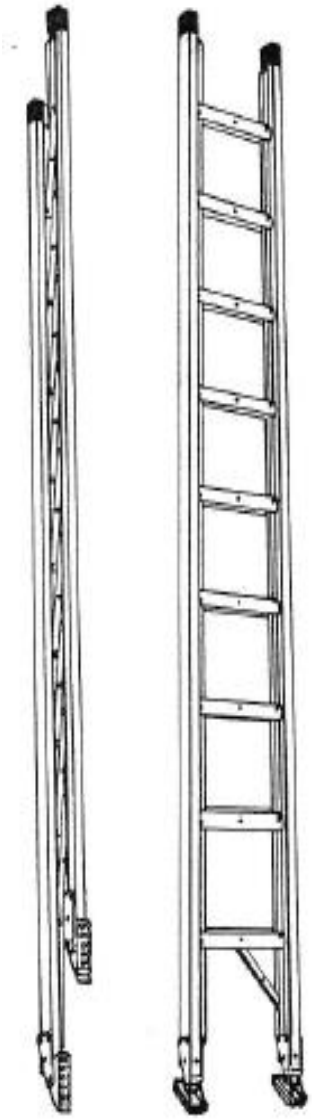
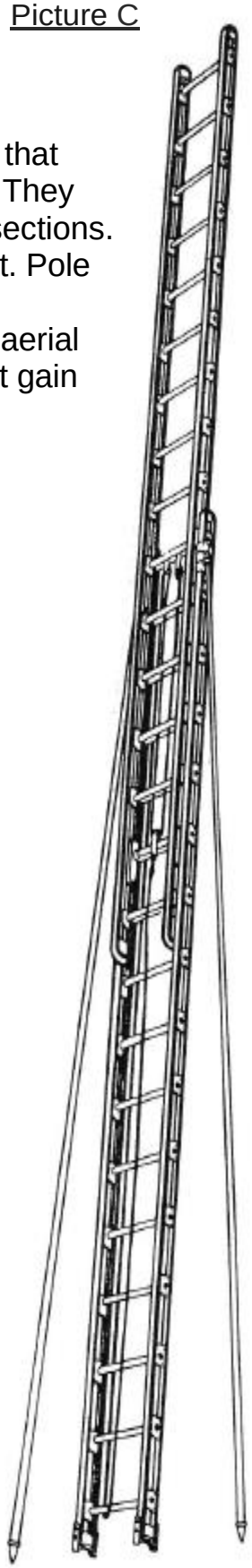
Ladders Continued:



Picture D

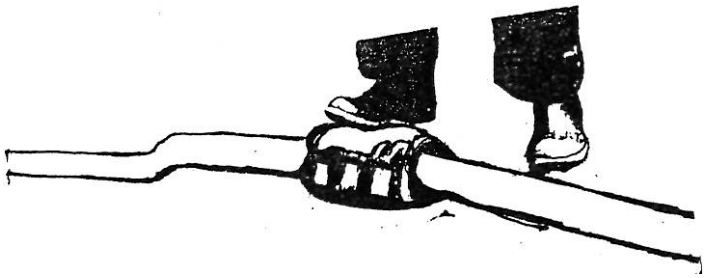
Picture C



Pole Ladders (Bangor Ladders):
Pole ladders are extension ladders that have stay poles added for stability. They are manufactured with two to four sections. Lengths vary from 35 feet to 65 feet. Pole ladders allow ladder operations on buildings of up to five stories when aerial apparatus is not available or cannot gain access.

Folding Ladder: Folding ladders are a particular type of single ladder that have hinged rungs so that they can be folded into a compact assembly with one beam resting against the other. This ladder can be carried in narrow hallways and aisles and taken around corners not possible with regular single ladders. Folding ladders are narrower when open than regular single ladders. Lengths run from 8 feet to 16 feet with the most common being 10 feet.

Hose Tools



Picture A

Hose Jacket: When a section of a hose ruptures and it is impossible to shut down the hoseline and replace the bad section, then a hose jacket can be installed on the hose at the point of rupture. The hose jacket covers the hose so effectively that it can continue to operate at full pressure. A hose jacket can also be used to connect hose with mis-matched or damaged screw-thread couplings.

Picture B

Spanner Wrench: The main purpose of a spanner wrench is to tighten and loosen hose couplings. Some spanner wrenches have a few other features that include a wedge for prying, and opening to fit gas valves, a slot for pulling nails, and a flat surface for hammering.

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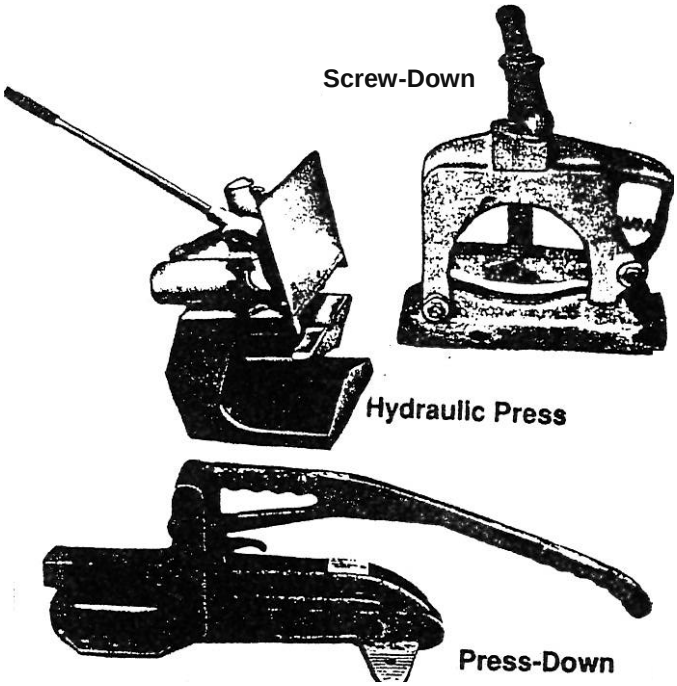
Hose Tools continued



Picture C

Hose Clamps: Hose clamps are used to stop the flow of water in a hoseline for three reasons: to prevent charging the hose bed during hose layout operations, to allow replacement of a burst section without shutting down the water supply, and to allow extension of a hose line without shutting down the water supply. The three types of hose clamps are the screw-down, press-down, and hydraulic press.

Picture D

Hydrant Wrench: Hydrant wrenches are used to remove caps from fire hydrant outlets and to open fire hydrant valves. It is usually equipped with a pentagon opening in its head that will fit most standard fire hydrant operating nuts. The head may also be equipped with a spanner to help make and break coupling connections.

Continued on the Next Page.

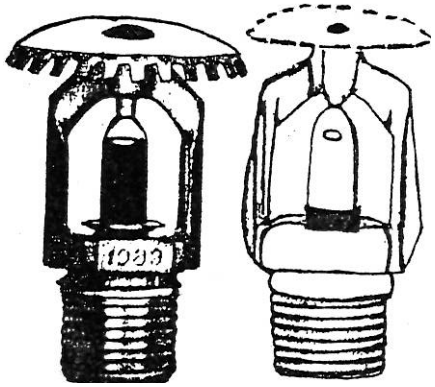
Hose Tools continued

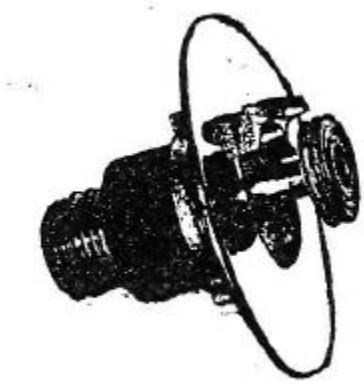
Picture E

Rubber Mallet: Used to tighten and loosen intake hose couplings. Because it is sometimes difficult to obtain a completely air-tight connection with intake hose couplings, the rubber mallet is used to strike the lugs and further tighten the connection.

Sprinklers

Sprinklers release water when a cap or plug is activated by some heat-responsive element. There are various types and designs of sprinklers. Learn the following sprinklers for the test.





Picture A

Glass Bulb: A sprinkler that uses a small bulb filled with liquid and an air bubble to hold the orifice shut. Heat expands the liquid until the bubble is absorbed into the liquid, which increases the internal pressure until the bulb shatters at the proper temperature.

Picture B

Quick-Response: This type of sprinkler is developed for life safety purposes It contains an increased surface area to collect the heat generated by a fire faster than in standard fusible link sprinklers, which results in a faster opening of the sprinkler and quicker extinguishment of the fire.

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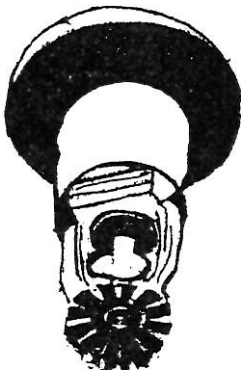
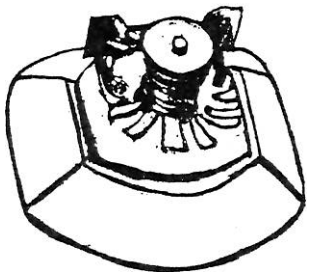
Sprinklers continued



Picture C

Pendant Sprinkler: The most common type of sprinkler in use. It extends down from underneath the piping and sprays a stream water downward into a deflector that breaks the stream into a hemispherical pattern.

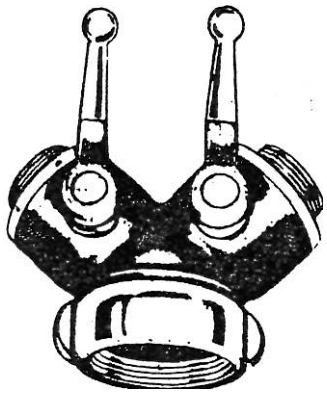


Picture D

Sidewall: This sprinkler is positioned on the side of a pipe and used in small rooms where the branch line runs along a wall. It contains a special deflector that creates a fan-shaped pattern of water.

Valve Devices

Firefighters often need to divide a hose line into two or more hose lines, or combine two or more hose lines into one hose line. Wye adapters, the Siamese, and the Water Thief appliances are used for these purposes.



Picture A

"Leader-line" Wye: The most common wye has a 2 1/2-inch inlet to two 1 1/2-inch outlets. It is often referred to as a "leader-line" wye.

Picture B

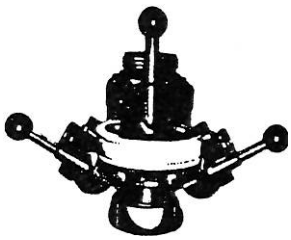
A 2 1/2-inch Wye: The 2 1/2-inch wye is also used to divide one 2 1/2- inch or larger hoseline into two 2 1/2-inch lines. Wye appliances are often gated (valves used to control the flow of water from a hydrant) so that water being fed into the hoselines may be controlled at the gate.

Continued on the Next Page

Valve Devices continued

Picture C

Siamese: Siamese fire hose layouts consist of two or more hose lines that are brought into one hose line or device. Siamese appliances are commonly used to overcome the problems encountered due to friction loss in hose lays which need to carry a large flow or cover a long distance.



Picture D

Water Thief: A variation of the wye appliance. The most common water thief consists of one 2 1/2-inch inlet with one 2 1/2-inch and two 1 1/2-inch discharge outlets. The water thief is intended to be used on a 2 1/2-inch or larger hose line so that 2 1/2-inch and 1 1/2-inch hose line may be used as desired from the same layout.

Sample Questions

6. Which one of the following ladders is a folding ladder?

A.

C.

B.

D.

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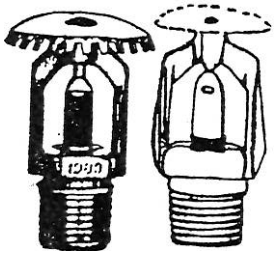
7. Which one of the following sprinklers extends down from underneath the piping and sprays water down into a deflector that breaks the stream into a hemispherical pattern?

A. 

C. 

B. 

D. 

Contents of Section B

You do **NOT** have to learn or memorize any specialized material to answer the questions in this section of the test. The instructions for answering the questions in each of the four parts and a set of sample questions for each part are presented below and on the following pages. The correct answers to the sample questions in Section B are listed on the Answer Sheet located on the last page of this booklet.

Effective Communication

This part of the test measures a person's ability to communicate clearly and effectively. In the sample below, you will find a narrative written by a firefighter about a fire scene experience. Portions of the narrative are marked and numbered. In this part of the test you are to choose the number corresponding to the portion of the narrative which represents poor communication. Poor communication may appear in the form of incorrect grammar, punctuation, spelling, or other errors in communication.

Narrative

1 2 3 4
On Febuary 22, 2004, Company C recieved a call to respond to a single-dwelling
5 6 7 8 9 10
houe fire located at 1264 South Main street. Upon immediate arrival at the seen ;
11 12 13 14
Captain Roy Thomas called for additional units as back-up : These additional units was
15 16
commanded to go directly to the staging sight, approximately one block away from the fire area.

8. Which one of the following is an error in spelling?

A. 12 C. 3
B. 8 D. 6

9. Which one of the following is **incorrect**?

A. 16 C. 11
B. 12 D. 1

Directional Maps

This part of the test measures your ability to read and comprehend a map. Each question below describes a starting point and a destination. Assume you are a firefighter riding in a fire apparatus answering calls from a dispatcher. Refer to the map on the opposite page when answering the sample questions below. You do NOT have to memorize this map.

Sample Questions

10. Fire Company B is sent from their fire station to the Ecco Chemical Company. If given the following directions, at what building number should Fire Company B arrive?

    Directions: Go north on Clay Court, west on Antoine Road, north on Hale Street, and west on Cooper Drive.

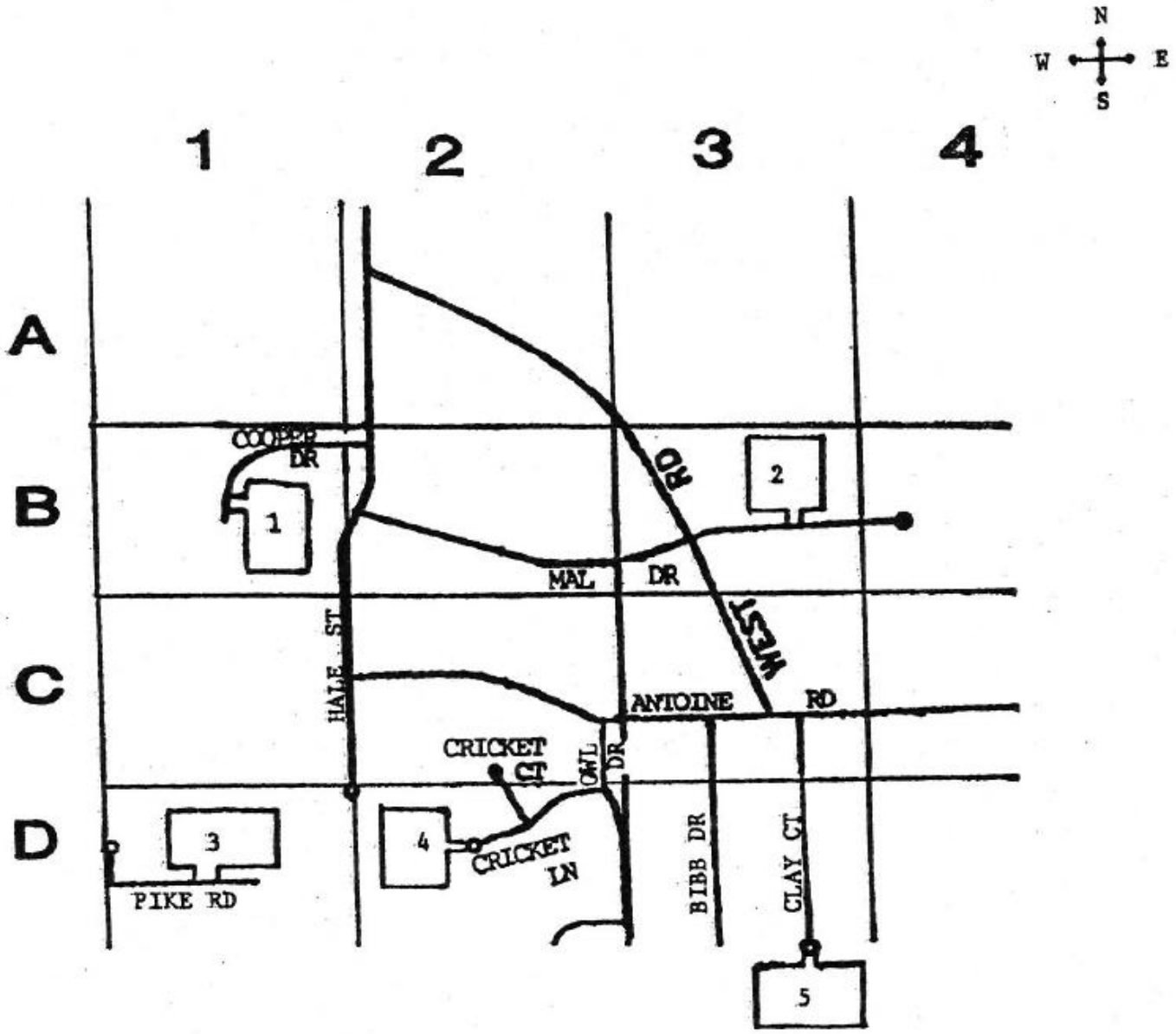
    A. #5
    B. #4
    C. #1
    D. #2

11. After answering a medical emergency call, Fire Company D returned to the fire station. If given the following directions, at what building number should the fire station be located?

    Directions: Go east on Cricket Lane, north on Owl Drive, east on Antoine Road, north on West Road, and east on Mal Drive.

    A. #4
    B. #2
    C. #3
    D. #1

TURN TO THE NEXT PAGE



(Directional Map for Questions 10 & 11)

Fire Department Report

This part of the test measures your ability to read and understand departmental reports. There will be two types of reports given to you on the test. You do NOT have to memorize any information concerning these reports, because the information will be given to you on the test.

Refer to the chart below and then answer the sample questions by choosing the best answer given among the five choices.

CLAY COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2004

Company	Number of Gasoline Fires	Number of School Inspections	Number of Arsons	Number of Traffic Accidents Worked
A	1	2	1	5
B	4	2	0	2
C	0	4	5	6
D	2	3	0	1
E	2	3	3	4

11. How many companies worked more than three gasoline fires, yet worked less than three traffic accidents?

    A. 2
    B. 5
    C. 3
    D. 1

13. According to the chart, which Fire Company worked the most traffic accidents?

    A. Fire Company A
    B. Fire Company B
    C. Fire Company C
    D. Fire Company D

CODES

Area of Origin:

0-Undetermined
1-Den/Living
2-Bedroom
3-Kitchen
6-Storage/Utility
7-Attic
15-Dumpster
17-Garage
19-Power Box
20-Roof

Cause:

10-Children Playing
11-Smoking Materials
12-Cooking
16-Explosives
18-Electrical Wiring
20-Fixed Heating System
24-Nature; Lightning, Limbs, etc
25-Could Not Be Determined
33-Gas Leak
40-Grease Fire

Condition on Arrival:

2-Smoke Showing
3-Fire Showing, not fully involved
4-Fire Showing, fully involved
5-Emergency other than fire
10-Woods, Trash, Grass on fire

Incident Type:

10-Structural Fire
12-Brush/Woods Fire
13-Trash Fire
15-Hazardous Materials Incident
33-Gas Leak

Intent:

1-Accidental
2-Suspicious
3-Under Investigation
4-Undetermined
5-Incendiary

Refer to the Codes on the opposite page, the chart below, and Case A below. After reading Case A, answer the sample questions based upon the information presented in Case A and the Code List located on the opposite page.

	Type of Incident	Condition on Arrival	Tentative Cause	Intent	Area of Origin
Case A					
Case B					
Case C					

CASE A:
Fire Company G was called to a house fire at 2102 Brent Lane. When the company arrived on the scene they saw smoke and partial flames escaping from the front windows of the house. After insuring the safety of the Hall family and extinguishing the fire, the firefighters determined that the fire started accidentally in the living room because of poor electrical wiring in a lamp.

14. According to this case, what code number should be written under the heading "Tentative Cause"?

A. 10 C. 1
B. 18 D. 20

15. According to this case, what code number should be written under the heading "Intent"?

A. 3 C. 4
B. 5 D. 1

Diagnose Problems

This section of the test deals with your ability to diagnose problems relating to firefighting and emergency medical services. You do **NOT** have to memorize the information in this section. There will be two types of questions in this section. For the first type of questions, you will have to read paragraphs and answer questions based upon the information.

16. Choosing the proper hose line placement for firefighting is essential to a successful operation. Initial hose line placement is regulated by various principles. Place the first stream between the fire and any persons endangered by it in order to protect the victims first and then protect their means of escape. When no life is endangered, place the first stream between the fire and the most severe (endangered) exposure. Place the second line to back up the first or to protect the secondary means of egress. Always consider the presence of personnel opposite this line. Place additional lines to support and reinforce attack positions in a manner and direction that assists rescue, supports confinement, and protects exposures.

If a fire is raging in a two story house and a child is seen at a window, how should the first arriving company officer position his hose?

A. Place the first line between the fire and the most severe exposure
B. Place the first line between the fire and victim and the escape route
C. Place the first hose line directly into the smoky area
D. Place the first and second hose lines into the direct line of fire

17. An Emergency Medical Technician should always begin assessment and care of a patient in this order of importance: Airway, Breathing, Circulation, Disability, and Expose (ABCDE). In all cases your assessment of the patient's airway, breathing circulation, and disability will govern the extent of your treatment at the scene. In addition, particularly in the trauma patient, it is important to expose the patient's body completely as soon as possible to facilitate a complete exam. Always give priority to emergency care of the ABCD to ensure life and limb-saving treatment.

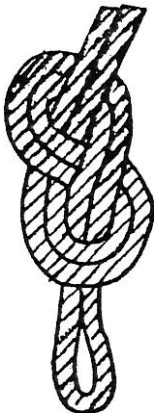
According to this paragraph, when faced with a trauma patient, ____ should be the first step in assessment.

A. expose the patient's body
B. make sure the patient is breathing
C. check the patient's airway
D. evaluate the patient's circulation

For the second type of questions, you are to study the pictures below and the brief explanation under each picture. Read the fire scenarios located on the following page and answer the questions based upon the pictures and information given.

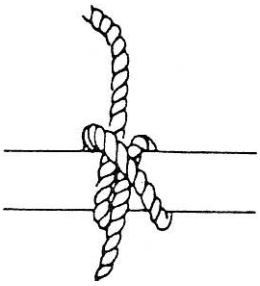
Picture A

Bowline Knot: A good knot for forming a loop that will not confine the object it is placed around. It is widely used within firefighting, but it cannot be used in life safety situations.



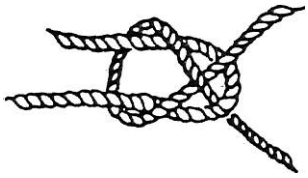
Picture B

Figure of Eight on a Bight (Guide Knot): The preferred replacement for the bowline when using synthetic rope. It can be used as both an anchoring attachment and a harness tie-in.



Picture C

Clove Hitch: It is used to carry objects with no natural handles, such as a pole, post or hose.



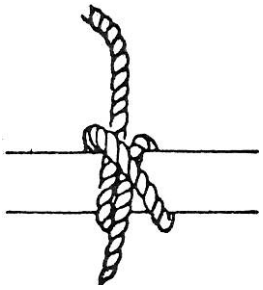
Picture D

Becket Bend: Used for joining ropes of joining ropes of unequal diameter together, as well as joining a rope and chain together. It is unlikely to slip when the rope is wet

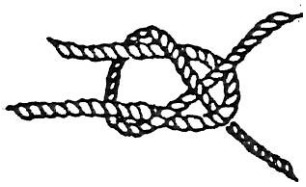
Scenarios

18. Fire Company B is dispatched to a home where a young child has fallen into a deep well. The firefighters are going to pull the child out by making a harness to place around the child and hoist him up. Which of the following knots shown below would be the best to use in this situation?

A.

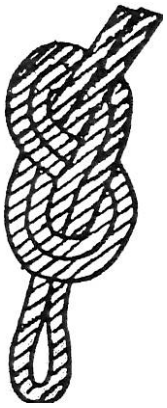


C.



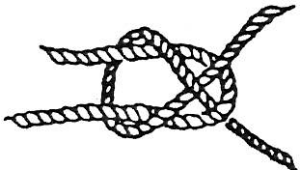
B.

D.

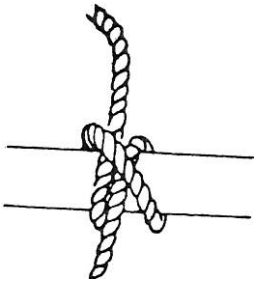


19. Fire Company D is dispatched to a cave-in site where people are trapped under rubble. In order to rescue trapped victims, the firefighters must stabilize the area by transporting timbers or jacks down into the cave-in area. Which of the following knots shown below would be the best to transport timbers or jacks?

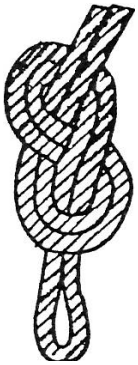
A.



C.



B.



D.

ANSWER SHEET

Answers to Sample Questions

Section A

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

Section B

8. C
9. D
10. C
11. B
12. D
13. C
14. B
15. D
16. B
17. C
18. D
19. C

What Happens After the Written Examination

After you have completed the written examination, it will be graded at the Mobile County Personnel Department. In approximately three to four weeks you will be notified whether you passed or failed. If you pass the written examination, your notice will tell you when and where to report for the next phase of the examining process as listed in the announcement you received when applying.

GOOD LUCK AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN FIREFIGHTING