



# US Firefighter

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## Practice Questions

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**1. Which of the following is classified as a gaseous fuel?**

- A. Propane
- B. Gasoline
- C. Wood
- D. Coal

**2. You arrive first at a structure fire and see a person hanging from a second-floor window. What is your immediate priority?**

- A. Initiate rescue of the visible, viable victim while updating command
- B. Begin overhauling the rear of the structure
- C. Charge a master stream and attack the fire from outside
- D. Search the basement for the seat of the fire

**3. A fire engine carries 4 lengths of hose at 50 feet each and 3 lengths at 100 feet each. What is the total length of hose?**

- A. 350 feet
- B. 500 feet
- C. 700 feet
- D. 450 feet

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**4. On a first-class lever, where is the fulcrum located relative to the effort and the load?**

- A. Between the effort and the load
- B. At the same point as the load
- C. Beyond both the effort and the load
- D. At the same point as the effort



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**5. On firefighter memory and observation tests, the most reliable strategy when first shown a scene is to:**

- A. Scan systematically from one side to the other
- B. Stare only at the center of the image
- C. Close your eyes to picture it later
- D. Read the questions first if they are visible

**6. Read the passage: 'Smoke detectors save lives by giving people early warning of a fire. However, a detector only works if it has a charged battery. Firefighters recommend testing detectors monthly and replacing batteries at least once a year.' What is the main idea of this passage?**

- A. Working smoke detectors require regular battery maintenance to protect people
- B. Firefighters dislike responding to smoke detector calls
- C. Most fires start because of faulty wiring
- D. Smoke detectors are too expensive for many households

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**7. On a standard street map oriented with north at the top, you are at the station facing the top of the map. Which direction are you facing?**

- A. South
- B. West
- C. North
- D. East

**8. On the fireground, what is the primary purpose of a clear chain of command?**

- A. To ensure orders flow through defined channels so everyone knows who they report to
- B. To allow any firefighter to give orders to any other
- C. To eliminate the need for an Incident Commander
- D. To make rank irrelevant during emergencies

**9. A multipurpose ABC dry-chemical extinguisher can be used on which fires?**

- A. Combustible metals only
- B. Ordinary combustibles, flammable liquids, and energized electrical equipment
- C. Cooking-oil fires only
- D. Class D metal fires only



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**10. While operating inside a burning structure, you and your partner become separated and you cannot find an exit. What should you do first?**

- A. Activate your PASS device and transmit a Mayday
- B. Remove your SCBA mask to see better through smoke
- C. Continue searching alone until you find a way out
- D. Turn off your low-air alarm to conserve focus

**11. A firefighter works 24 hours on duty followed by 48 hours off. How many total hours is one full cycle?**

- A. 60 hours
- B. 72 hours
- C. 96 hours
- D. 48 hours

**12. A 40 lb load sits 2 ft from the fulcrum of a lever. How much effort is needed at a point 4 ft from the fulcrum to balance it?**

- A. 80 lb
- B. 40 lb
- C. 20 lb
- D. 10 lb

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**13. When studying a memory image of a building, you should pay special attention to objective details such as:**

- A. Only the color of the sky
- B. The number of doors, windows, and visible address numbers
- C. The brand of the test booklet
- D. The examiner's tone of voice



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**14. Read the passage: 'A pre-incident plan maps a building's layout, hazards, water supplies, and access points before an emergency occurs. Crews study these plans so that on arrival they already know where stairwells, standpipes, and shutoffs are located. This preparation reduces the time spent searching for critical resources during an actual fire.' The passage is mainly about:**

- A. The legal requirements for building inspections
- B. How firefighters fight fires once they arrive
- C. How pre-incident plans help crews act faster during emergencies
- D. The cost of installing standpipes in buildings

**15. A map shows north at the top. You drive from the station toward the right edge of the map. In which compass direction are you traveling?**

- A. West
- B. East
- C. North
- D. South

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**16. What is the most important reason for using clear, plain language on the radio rather than codes?**

- A. It sounds more professional
- B. It reduces misunderstanding among personnel and mutual-aid agencies
- C. It uses less battery power
- D. It is required by federal law in all cases

**17. The three primary methods of heat transfer relevant to fire spread are:**

- A. Pyrolysis, ignition, and decay
- B. Flashover, backdraft, and rollover
- C. Conduction, convection, and radiation
- D. Cooling, smothering, and starving

**18. A bystander at an emergency scene is yelling and interfering with your crew's operations. What is the most professional response?**

- A. Calmly explain the danger and direct them to a safe area behind the perimeter
- B. Ignore them entirely and continue working
- C. Threaten to have them arrested immediately
- D. Argue with them about who is right



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**19. A station has 6 firefighters per shift and runs 3 shifts. How many firefighters staff the station in total across the shifts?**

- A. 18
- B. 12
- C. 9
- D. 24

**20. A wheelbarrow is an example of which class of lever?**

- A. First-class lever
- B. Second-class lever
- C. Third-class lever
- D. Fourth-class lever

**21. Why are observation skills emphasized for firefighters in real emergencies?**

- A. They help firefighters drive faster
- B. They replace the need for radio communication
- C. Accurate scene details guide search, rescue, and hazard decisions
- D. They eliminate the need for protective gear

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**22. Read the passage: 'Physical fitness is essential for firefighters. The job demands carrying heavy equipment, climbing stairs in full gear, and working in extreme heat. A firefighter who maintains strength and cardiovascular endurance is less likely to suffer injury or exhaustion on the fireground.' Which sentence best states the main idea?**

- A. Firefighters must climb many stairs during a fire
- B. Physical fitness helps firefighters perform the job safely and avoid injury
- C. Firefighting equipment is very heavy
- D. Extreme heat is the greatest danger firefighters face



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**23. You are facing east. What direction is to your immediate left?**

- A. North
- B. South
- C. West
- D. East

**24. When transmitting a radio message, a firefighter should:**

- A. Speak as fast as possible to keep the channel clear
- B. Whisper to avoid alarming the public
- C. Speak clearly at a normal pace and keep the message concise
- D. Use long, detailed sentences for completeness

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**25. Before relying on a portable fire extinguisher, you should check that the pressure gauge needle is in the:**

- A. Red overcharged zone
- B. Red discharged zone
- C. Empty position
- D. Green operable zone

**26. A new probationary firefighter on your crew is clearly nervous before their first working fire. What is the best response?**

- A. Reassure them, review their assignment, and keep them paired with an experienced member
- B. Mock them to toughen them up
- C. Send them home for the shift
- D. Assign them the most dangerous task alone

**27. If a hose line discharges 125 gallons per minute, how many gallons flow in 4 minutes?**

- A. 250 gallons
- B. 500 gallons
- C. 625 gallons
- D. 375 gallons

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**28. Tweezers and the human forearm are both examples of third-class levers. What is the defining trait of a third-class lever?**

- A. The fulcrum is between effort and load
- B. The load is between fulcrum and effort
- C. It always multiplies force
- D. The effort is between the fulcrum and the load

**29. A test gives a fixed time to study an image. The best use of that time is to:**

- A. Memorize a single object in extreme detail
- B. Spend half the time deciding where to start
- C. Ignore people and focus only on vehicles
- D. Memorize a broad set of details, not just one feature

**30. Read the passage: 'Although ventilation can improve conditions inside a burning structure by releasing heat and smoke, it must be coordinated with fire attack. Opening a roof or window introduces oxygen, and if a hose line is not in position, that fresh air can intensify the fire instead of relieving it. Timing, therefore, separates effective ventilation from a dangerous mistake.' The central point is that:**

- A. Ventilation should never be attempted on a burning structure
- B. Roofs are the safest place to ventilate a fire
- C. Smoke removal is the only purpose of ventilation
- D. Ventilation is only beneficial when properly coordinated and timed with the attack



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## Answer Key & Explanations

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### 1. A — Propane

Propane is a gaseous fuel. Gasoline is a liquid fuel, while wood and coal are solid fuels; each state behaves differently in a fire.

### 2. A — Initiate rescue of the visible, viable victim while updating command

Life safety is the top priority on the fireground. A visible, viable victim in immediate danger takes precedence over property-focused tasks like fire attack on the structure.

### 3. B — 500 feet

$4 \times 50 = 200$  feet and  $3 \times 100 = 300$  feet;  $200 + 300 = 500$  feet.

### 4. A — Between the effort and the load

In a first-class lever (like a seesaw or pry bar), the fulcrum sits between the effort force and the load, allowing the effort to balance or move the load.

### 5. A — Scan systematically from one side to the other

A systematic left-to-right or top-to-bottom scan covers the whole scene rather than fixating on one spot, improving recall across the entire image.

### 6. A — Working smoke detectors require regular battery maintenance to protect people

The passage centers on smoke detectors saving lives only when maintained, so the main idea is regular battery maintenance. The other options are not supported by the text.

### 7. C — North

On a map with north at the top, facing toward the top of the page means you are facing north.

### 8. A — To ensure orders flow through defined channels so everyone knows who they report to

A chain of command defines reporting relationships so directions move predictably and accountability is maintained, which is essential for safety and coordination.

### 9. B — Ordinary combustibles, flammable liquids, and energized electrical equipment

An ABC-rated dry-chemical extinguisher works on Class A, B, and C fires, making it a versatile general-purpose unit. It is not rated for Class D or K fires.

### 10. A — Activate your PASS device and transmit a Mayday

A lost or trapped firefighter must immediately declare a Mayday and activate the PASS alarm so the RIT can locate them. Removing the mask or silencing alarms increases the danger.

### 11. B — 72 hours

One cycle is 24 hours on plus 48 hours off, which equals 72 hours.

### 12. C — 20 lb

For balance,  $\text{effort} \times \text{effort-arm} = \text{load} \times \text{load-arm}$ . So  $\text{effort} = (40 \times 2) / 4 = 20$  lb. A longer effort arm reduces



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the force required.

**13. B — The number of doors, windows, and visible address numbers**

Countable fixed features like doors, windows, and address numbers are common, verifiable test subjects, so noting them raises your score.

**14. C — How pre-incident plans help crews act faster during emergencies**

Every sentence supports the value of pre-incident plans for faster action, making that the main idea. Legal requirements and costs are never discussed.

**15. B — East**

With north at the top, the right side of the map is east, so driving toward the right edge means heading east.

**16. B — It reduces misunderstanding among personnel and mutual-aid agencies**

Plain language ensures all responders, including mutual-aid partners who may not share the same codes, understand transmissions, reducing dangerous misunderstandings.

**17. C — Conduction, convection, and radiation**

Conduction, convection, and radiation are the three modes of heat transfer that move energy and spread fire. Understanding them is fundamental to predicting fire behavior.

**18. A — Calmly explain the danger and direct them to a safe area behind the perimeter**

Professionalism requires calm, respectful communication. Redirecting bystanders to safety maintains scene control while preserving the public's trust.

**19. A — 18**

6 firefighters x 3 shifts = 18 firefighters.

**20. B — Second-class lever**

In a wheelbarrow the load sits between the fulcrum (wheel) and the effort (handles), which defines a second-class lever. Second-class levers always give a mechanical advantage greater than one.

**21. C — Accurate scene details guide search, rescue, and hazard decisions**

Firefighters must read a scene quickly to find victims, spot hazards, and pick tactics; trained observation directly supports those life-safety decisions.

**22. B — Physical fitness helps firefighters perform the job safely and avoid injury**

The first and last sentences frame fitness as essential for safe performance; the middle details are supporting examples, not the main idea.

**23. A — North**

Facing east, your left hand points north and your right hand points south.

**24. C — Speak clearly at a normal pace and keep the message concise**

Clear, concise transmissions at a normal pace ensure the message is understood the first time and minimize channel congestion.

**25. D — Green operable zone**

A charged, ready extinguisher shows its gauge needle in the green operable range. A needle in the red indicates it is over- or under-pressurized and may not work.



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**26. A — Reassure them, review their assignment, and keep them paired with an experienced member**  
Supportive mentoring and pairing rookies with experienced members builds competence and maintains crew safety and cohesion.

**27. B — 500 gallons**

125 gallons/min x 4 min = 500 gallons.

**28. D — The effort is between the fulcrum and the load**

In a third-class lever the effort is applied between the fulcrum and the load. This sacrifices force (mechanical advantage under 1) but increases the speed and range of the load's motion.

**29. D — Memorize a broad set of details, not just one feature**

Questions can target any part of the image, so spreading attention across many details gives the best chance of answering whatever is asked.

**30. D — Ventilation is only beneficial when properly coordinated and timed with the attack**

The passage notes benefits but stresses poor timing makes ventilation dangerous, so coordination/timing is the central point. It does not say ventilation should never be done.



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