

PRACTICE EXAM 5: BOILER OPERATOR LICENSE SIMULATION

QUESTIONS 1–100

1. An operator discovers that the previous shift bypassed a low water fuel cutoff with a jumper wire. The boiler is currently firing with the jumper still in place. What is the FIRST action?

- A. Document the finding and continue operation until relief
- B. Shut off the fuel immediately and remove the jumper
- C. Report to supervision and finish current shift first
- D. Leave the jumper in place and monitor water level closely

2. A jurisdictional inspector arrives during a shift and the operator cannot locate the current inspection certificate. The operator's best response is to:

- A. Claim the certificate is in the manager's locked office
- B. Continue operation until the certificate can be found later
- C. Ask the inspector to return at a more convenient time
- D. Cooperate fully with the inspector's examination of the plant

3. During emergency evacuation, an operator encounters a coworker unconscious on the boiler room floor. What should the operator do?

- A. Alert others, call for help, do not attempt rescue if unsafe
- B. Drag the coworker out immediately regardless of conditions

- C. Continue evacuating alone and report the coworker later
- D. Attempt CPR in place without assessing the surroundings

4. A supervisor instructs an operator to run a boiler with a failed safety valve "until the weekend when we can replace it." The operator should:

- A. Follow the supervisor's instructions without question
- B. Negotiate a shorter timeframe with the supervisor first
- C. Refuse to operate the boiler with a failed safety valve
- D. Run the boiler at reduced capacity to compensate

5. An operator notices a small gas leak at the burner fuel train. The next action is to:

- A. Shut off the fuel supply and investigate the leak source
- B. Continue firing and monitor the leak for worsening
- C. Open windows to disperse any accumulated gas present
- D. Wait for the next shift to handle the gas leak repair

6. A contractor arrives to perform welding on boiler piping. Before work begins, the operator must verify:

- A. The contractor has their own fire extinguisher supplied
- B. Work hours match shift schedules for operator coverage
- C. Refreshments are arranged for contractor break times
- D. A hot work permit is issued with a fire watch designated

7. An operator finds that the fire extinguishers in the boiler room are past their annual inspection date. What is the correct response?

- A. Use them anyway because they probably still work fine
- B. Report the condition and arrange prompt re-inspection
- C. Remove them entirely until new ones can be purchased
- D. Leave them but mark with a warning label for awareness

8. The boiler operator discovers that a coworker is impaired during their shift. The appropriate response is:

- A. Cover for the coworker to protect their job security
- B. Confront the coworker directly without involving anyone
- C. Report the safety concern to supervision immediately
- D. Wait until the coworker makes a mistake before acting

9. An operator is asked to falsify chemistry logs to show the plant passing a test it failed. The operator should:

- A. Refuse the request because falsification is unethical and illegal
- B. Complete the requested logs as instructed by supervision
- C. Fill in approximate values that seem reasonable for the test
- D. Consult with peers before deciding whether to comply

10. A fire alarm sounds in the boiler room. The operator's first action should be:

- A. Call 911 to report the fire before doing anything else
- B. Attempt to locate and extinguish the fire manually

- C. Retrieve personal belongings before exiting the area
- D. Evacuate along designated routes to the assembly area

11. An operator notices the plant's written emergency procedures have not been updated in 8 years. The operator should:

- A. Follow the outdated procedures without raising concerns
- B. Draft new procedures independently and post them
- C. Report the outdated procedures to supervision for update
- D. Ignore the procedures since they are probably still valid

12. During an internal inspection, the operator finds a tube wall thickness below the code minimum. The required response is:

- A. Continue operation until the boiler's next scheduled outage
- B. Notify supervision and plan tube replacement before restart
- C. Reduce operating pressure to compensate for thin walls
- D. Document the finding and allow operation for six months

13. A new operator with no prior boiler experience is left alone for a shift by the senior operator. The new operator should:

- A. Contact supervision to request appropriate supervision immediately
- B. Continue the shift alone and do the best they can
- C. Call the previous shift operator for constant phone guidance
- D. Run the boiler at reduced capacity to minimize risk

14. An operator observes that a pressure gauge reads 20 psig lower than the control room indicator. The appropriate response is:

- A. Ignore the difference and use the control room reading
- B. Assume the control room is more accurate than the gauge
- C. Adjust the local gauge to match the control room value
- D. Investigate the discrepancy and verify which is correct

15. A chemical splash contacts an operator's arm during chemical handling. The immediate response is:

- A. Wipe the chemical off with a clean cloth or paper towel
- B. Flush the affected area with water for at least 15 minutes
- C. Apply first aid cream and continue with the work task
- D. Cover the area with a bandage to protect it from air

16. An operator is asked to train a new hire who lacks the state license required for the job. The operator should:

- A. Refuse unauthorized training and report to supervision
- B. Train the person informally and hope for the best outcome
- C. Complete training and let supervision verify credentials later
- D. Provide hands-on training while the person's license is processed

17. During a boiler startup, the operator realizes they skipped the pre-purge step. The correct action is:

- A. Continue with ignition because a small skip is acceptable
- B. Ignite the burner and perform post-purge instead of pre-purge
- C. Stop, reset the BMS, and perform full pre-purge as required

D. Shorten the pre-purge time to save several minutes

18. An operator observes a colleague sleeping on duty during the night shift. The appropriate action is:

A. Wake the colleague quietly and let them return to work

B. Cover for them because shift work causes fatigue

C. Take over their duties silently until they wake up

D. Report the finding to supervision as a safety concern

19. A boiler operator discovers that the jurisdictional inspector is a relative of the plant manager. The situation:

A. Represents a serious conflict of interest requiring reporting

B. Should be disclosed to protect the integrity of inspections

C. Is acceptable as long as the inspection appears thorough

D. Is a private family matter unrelated to plant operations

20. An operator receives an emergency call from home during a critical burner startup. The correct response is:

A. Complete the startup sequence before taking the personal call

B. Take the call immediately regardless of the current operation

C. Hand off the startup to the nearest available coworker

D. Ignore the call and address it at the next shift break

21. A fuel oil leak contaminates the boiler room floor. The appropriate response is to:

A. Continue operation while cleaning up the spill gradually

- B. Mop the spill with paper towels and dispose in trash
- C. Pour water on the spill to dilute and disperse it safely
- D. Shut down equipment, contain the spill, notify supervision

22. An operator receives notification that the annual safety training is overdue. The appropriate response is:

- A. Request scheduling of the required training promptly
- B. Wait for the employer to assign training without prompting
- C. Attempt to find a substitute training online without approval
- D. Skip the training and claim it was received verbally

23. During a routine shift, the operator notices structural damage to an overhead pipe support. The first action is:

- A. Continue operation while scheduling a future inspection
- B. Weld the support back in place without stopping operation
- C. Report the damage and arrange structural evaluation
- D. Reinforce the support with rope as a temporary measure

24. A newly hired operator asks whether they can operate equipment outside their license class. The senior operator should explain:

- A. That experienced operators can informally bypass license limits
- B. That working outside license scope is illegal and unsafe
- C. That license classes are only suggestions, not hard rules
- D. That supervisory authorization overrides license restrictions

25. An operator's coworker confides that they are planning to falsify an inspection record. The appropriate response is:

- A. Support the coworker's decision to protect their job
- B. Remain neutral and avoid involvement in the situation
- C. Offer to help if the coworker provides specific details
- D. Inform the coworker this is illegal and report as required

26. During a severe weather event, the plant loses external power and the emergency generator fails to start. The first priority is:

- A. Continue operation using any residual power available
- B. Evacuate all personnel from the plant immediately
- C. Secure the boiler safely and evacuate if necessary
- D. Wait for power restoration before taking action

27. An operator notices an unusual vibration in the feedwater pump that was not present the previous day. The correct action is:

- A. Continue operation because vibration is usually minor
- B. Increase pump speed to mask the vibration signature
- C. Investigate the cause and plan corrective maintenance
- D. Turn off the pump immediately without backup feedwater

28. A plant's chemical feed system has been modified without documentation update. The operator should:

- A. Operate the modified system based on memory alone
- B. Update the documentation and notify affected personnel

- C. Revert to the original configuration without approval
- D. Ignore the modification until it causes problems later

29. An operator's license is about to expire and renewal paperwork has not been processed. The operator should:

- A. Cease operation until the license is properly renewed
- B. Continue working because renewal is usually automatic
- C. Ask a coworker to operate under their valid license
- D. Request an extension from the jurisdictional authority

30. A contractor requests access to the plant without proper site safety orientation. The operator should:

- A. Grant access since contractors know general safety rules
- B. Provide brief verbal instructions as a substitute for orientation
- C. Allow access while monitoring the contractor closely personally
- D. Refuse access until proper site safety orientation is completed

31. During routine operation, an operator smells a burning electrical odor. The first action is:

- A. Continue operation while searching for the source gradually
- B. Shut off electrical equipment in the affected area and investigate
- C. Open windows to ventilate the burning odor from the room
- D. Spray the area with fire extinguisher as a precaution

32. An operator is offered money by a contractor to approve work that was not completed. The appropriate response is:

- A. Refuse the bribe and report the incident to supervision
- B. Accept the payment if the work was "close enough"
- C. Accept the payment and do not approve the work itself
- D. Ignore the offer and avoid the contractor in the future

33. A newly installed gauge reads differently than the recently calibrated one it replaced. The correct action is:

- A. Assume the new gauge is more accurate by default
- B. Use the reading that matches the operator's expectations
- C. Verify calibration and resolve the discrepancy
- D. Swap gauges until one of them reads correctly

34. A coworker suggests skipping a safety step "because we are running late." The operator should:

- A. Skip the step to catch up with the schedule
- B. Delay the step until a less busy time occurs
- C. Skip it only if both operators agree together
- D. Refuse to skip the safety step regardless of schedule

35. An operator notices fellow operators are not wearing required hearing protection. The operator should:

- A. Ignore the issue because others are responsible for themselves
- B. Remind coworkers of the requirement and report persistent violations
- C. Remove their own hearing protection to match the group

D. Complain to coworkers without involving supervision

36. A fire starts in a small waste container in the boiler room. The operator has access to a fire extinguisher. The first action is:

- A. Attempt to extinguish if safe, alert others, call for help
- B. Immediately evacuate without attempting extinguishment
- C. Continue operation while watching the fire carefully
- D. Call the fire department before attempting anything else

37. The boiler room ventilation system has degraded and ambient temperature is climbing. The operator should:

- A. Continue operation and ignore the temperature rise
- B. Open doors to the rest of the building for airflow
- C. Reduce boiler firing rate to lower heat generation
- D. Report the ventilation issue and request corrective action

38. An operator is handed documentation for a chemical they have never used. Before handling it, the operator must:

- A. Begin using it based on general chemical knowledge
- B. Ask a coworker for brief verbal instructions first
- C. Read the Safety Data Sheet and understand the hazards
- D. Use it at minimal quantity to assess reactions

39. During internal inspection, the inspector finds corrosion that the operator had not reported. The operator should:

- A. Acknowledge the oversight and support the investigation fully
- B. Argue that the corrosion was not visible before the inspection
- C. Claim the corrosion developed recently since last inspection
- D. Suggest the inspector is exaggerating the severity found

40. An operator's boiler has been in service continuously for 14 months without an internal inspection. The operator should:

- A. Continue operation since the boiler is running well
- B. Schedule the overdue inspection immediately through proper channels
- C. Perform a quick visual inspection through the manway
- D. Wait for the jurisdictional inspector to arrive independently

41. A senior operator trains a junior operator to "just reset the BMS quickly" without investigating alarm causes. The junior operator should:

- A. Refuse to bypass proper alarm investigation procedures
- B. Follow the senior operator's instructions without question
- C. Sometimes follow and sometimes investigate depending on load
- D. Investigate only when time allows during routine operation

42. A plant operates without current OSHA poster displays or required safety signage. The operator should:

- A. Assume compliance is the manager's responsibility entirely
- B. Ignore the issue since violations are not personal concern

- C. Report missing required signage to supervision promptly
- D. Print their own signs to display in the boiler room

43. The operator is asked to provide a "lunch gift" to an inspector in exchange for a favorable report. The operator should:

- A. Provide the gift discreetly to avoid any public issues
- B. Provide the gift only if the plant has a history of passing
- C. Ask the inspector directly if a lunch would be appropriate
- D. Refuse and report the request as a serious code violation

44. An operator observes that emergency lighting in the boiler room does not illuminate during a test. The correct action is:

- A. Ignore the issue since no emergency has occurred yet
- B. Report the failure and arrange repair of the lighting system
- C. Install personal flashlights as a permanent replacement
- D. Assume the lighting works but failed only during this test

45. An operator's chemical protective gloves have developed small holes. Before handling chemicals, the operator should:

- A. Replace the gloves immediately before any chemical contact
- B. Use duct tape to patch the holes temporarily for the shift
- C. Wear the gloves anyway and wash hands frequently
- D. Skip chemical handling until new gloves are ordered later

46. An operator notices a truck driver dumping waste oil into the plant storm drain. The appropriate response is:

- A. Ignore the incident as not the operator's responsibility
- B. Ask the driver to stop without involving anyone else
- C. Document the incident and report to environmental authorities
- D. Clean up the oil after the driver leaves the area

47. A visitor touches a hot pipe in the boiler room and suffers a minor burn. The operator's first action is to:

- A. Lecture the visitor about safe behavior in industrial settings
- B. Provide first aid and document the incident properly
- C. Blame the visitor for touching equipment without permission
- D. Hide the incident to avoid negative workplace reports

48. An operator is approached by a media reporter asking about boiler plant operations. The operator should:

- A. Provide detailed information about plant operations freely
- B. Share opinions about management and coworkers openly
- C. Answer general questions while keeping specifics private
- D. Refer the reporter to management for any official statements

49. An operator's union representative requests to discuss an ongoing issue during a critical startup. The operator should:

- A. Immediately stop the startup to address union concerns

- B. Ignore the representative and continue startup silently
- C. Complete the startup, then address the union representative
- D. Tell the representative to handle concerns alone

50. The operator notices a small crack developing on a boiler drum welded seam. The correct action is:

- A. Monitor the crack without reporting it to supervision
- B. Apply a cold-weld patch to prevent further propagation
- C. Report immediately and arrange qualified inspection
- D. Ignore small cracks as they rarely cause serious problems

51. An operator is asked by a non-operator employee to show them how to start the boiler "just for fun." The operator should:

- A. Demonstrate the startup procedure as a training exercise
- B. Politely refuse because operation requires proper licensing
- C. Allow supervised hands-on practice under careful monitoring
- D. Record the demonstration for the non-operator to watch later

52. The operator discovers that fellow staff have been recording incorrect data in the boiler log. The appropriate response is:

- A. Continue the pattern to match existing records and avoid conflict
- B. Report the data falsification and insist on accurate records
- C. Discuss the issue with peers without involving management
- D. Create secondary records to document accurate conditions

53. An operator's child calls during an emergency shutdown. The operator should:

- A. Focus on the shutdown and return the call when safe
- B. Take the call because family emergencies take priority
- C. Hand the phone to a coworker to answer for them
- D. Step away briefly to take the call during shutdown

54. A safety meeting is scheduled during the operator's shift but not required. The operator should:

- A. Attend only if all work tasks have been completed
- B. Skip the meeting to focus on operational duties
- C. Attend because safety meetings are professionally important
- D. Send notes from past meetings as a substitute for attendance

55. An operator learns that a coworker has been stealing plant supplies for personal use. The appropriate action is:

- A. Ignore the matter as unrelated to boiler operation
- B. Confront the coworker directly without involving others
- C. Return the stolen items to the supply storage silently
- D. Report the theft to supervision following workplace policy

56. A government regulator conducts an unannounced inspection. The operator's best response is:

- A. Delay the inspection by claiming equipment is malfunctioning
- B. Cooperate fully and provide accurate information requested
- C. Hide violations by rearranging equipment before the visit

D. Ask the regulator to return with advance notice scheduled

57. An operator receives a jurisdictional citation for a boiler violation. The operator should:

A. Inform supervision and implement corrective action promptly

B. Argue with the inspector about the citation's validity

C. Attempt to bribe the inspector to withdraw the citation

D. Ignore the citation and continue normal operations

58. A contractor arrives with work authorization signed by an unknown person. The operator should:

A. Allow work to begin based on the written authorization alone

B. Call the named authorizer and hope for quick verification

C. Verify authorization through proper channels before work begins

D. Let the contractor start while checking authorization concurrently

59. The operator finds out that the plant's feedwater chemistry program has not been updated in 10 years. The operator should:

A. Continue the outdated program because it seems to work

B. Update the program independently without approval first

C. Compare with industry standards and recommend updates

D. Request an updated chemistry review from treatment vendor

60. An operator is pressured by management to run a boiler above its rated capacity. The operator should:

A. Comply with management instructions regardless of rating

- B. Refuse and explain code restrictions and physical risks
- C. Run briefly at elevated capacity then return to rated level
- D. Ask another operator to run it above rating instead

61. An operator's colleague has been absent from scheduled safety drills three times in a row. The appropriate response is:

- A. Ignore the absences because drills are only routine activities
- B. Excuse the absences privately without recording them
- C. Document and report the absences through proper channels
- D. Conduct make-up drills personally for the absent colleague

62. A fire department inspector requests access to the boiler room. The operator should:

- A. Permit access and cooperate fully with the inspection process
- B. Delay access until management approves the inspection visit
- C. Ask for a warrant before permitting access to the facility
- D. Refuse access and claim operational concerns for denial

63. A boiler alarm continuously activates and the operator cannot identify the cause quickly. The appropriate action is:

- A. Silence the alarm repeatedly and continue normal operation
- B. Disable the alarm circuit until the cause is identified later
- C. Assume the alarm is faulty and ignore it entirely during shift
- D. Investigate the root cause, shutting down if unable to resolve

64. An operator is asked by a supplier to recommend their products in exchange for personal gifts. The operator should:

- A. Accept the gifts and recommend the products as requested
- B. Decline the gifts and evaluate products on technical merit
- C. Accept gifts but recommend only products the operator truly likes
- D. Ask the supplier for larger gifts before making recommendations

65. A co-op student observes an operator violating safety rules. The student asks about the practice. The operator's response should be:

- A. Explain that experience allows some rule violations safely
- B. Tell the student to ignore the practice and learn formally
- C. Correct the behavior and reinforce proper safety standards
- D. Threaten the student with consequences for questioning practices

66. An operator learns that the plant is discharging untreated wastewater into a local river. The appropriate response is:

- A. Report the violation to environmental authorities and management
- B. Ignore the issue since it is not the operator's direct duty
- C. Attempt to treat the wastewater personally with available chemicals
- D. Document the practice but take no other action initially

67. The operator notices that a gauge cock has been removed and not replaced. The correct action is:

- A. Continue operation and plan replacement for the next outage
- B. Use pipe sealant to plug the opening temporarily until repair

- C. Operate with the removed cock since it is not always required
- D. Shut down the boiler to repair the safety-critical component

68. A plant manager asks the operator to work a double shift due to staffing shortages. The operator feels exhausted. The appropriate response is:

- A. Work the double shift regardless of fatigue concerns
- B. Decline the extended shift citing safety and fatigue
- C. Work half the shift then rest until the next assignment
- D. Take stimulant medication to stay alert through the shift

69. The operator notices that a jurisdictional inspector has been accepting lunches from the plant regularly. The appropriate response is:

- A. Report the suspicious behavior to the jurisdictional authority
- B. Continue the practice since it has been standard for years
- C. Offer higher-value gifts to strengthen the relationship further
- D. Ignore the practice as normal business hospitality

70. An operator receives a social media message from a coworker complaining about another employee. The operator should:

- A. Reply with additional complaints about the same employee
- B. Forward the message to other coworkers for their opinions
- C. Join the conversation to maintain workplace relationships
- D. Decline to engage and suggest professional resolution channels

71. A pressure vessel has been repaired by a welder whose certification was not verified. The operator should:

- A. Return the vessel to service since the repair appears good
- B. Only test the repair at low pressure for safety assurance
- C. Verify welder certification before authorizing return to service
- D. Accept the repair based on visual inspection alone

72. An operator notices that the annual safety training includes outdated information. The operator should:

- A. Complete the training as presented without any comments
- B. Point out inaccuracies and request updated training content
- C. Refuse to attend the outdated training session altogether
- D. Complete the training but rely on personal knowledge only

73. A contractor completes work but refuses to submit proper documentation. The operator should:

- A. Accept the work because the contractor is a trusted vendor
- B. Complete the documentation on behalf of the contractor
- C. Insist on proper documentation before accepting the work
- D. Report the work as incomplete without further discussion

74. The operator discovers that emergency exit doors are blocked by stored materials. The appropriate response is:

- A. Clear the exits immediately and report the violation
- B. Request the storage be moved during the next scheduled cleaning
- C. Document the blocked exits in the log for future reference

D. Identify alternative exits and continue normal operations

75. An operator is confronted by an angry employee during a shift. The appropriate response is:

- A. Engage in the argument to resolve the conflict immediately
- B. Threaten the employee to leave the boiler room area
- C. Remain professional, de-escalate, and involve supervision if needed
- D. Ignore the employee and continue operations without response

76. The operator notices that a new hire lacks proper PPE during their first day. The appropriate action is:

- A. Allow the new hire to begin work without PPE temporarily
- B. Provide personal spare PPE without reporting the lapse
- C. Suggest the new hire purchase PPE before starting work
- D. Stop work until proper PPE is provided to the new hire

77. A coworker asks the operator to sign a log entry as if the coworker performed the work themselves. The operator should:

- A. Sign it because coworkers should support each other
- B. Refuse because signing falsely is fraud and unethical
- C. Sign it only if the coworker will reciprocate next time
- D. Sign a partial entry as a compromise to help the coworker

78. An operator identifies a potentially serious safety hazard during a shift. The operator should:

- A. Document the hazard, report it, and mitigate immediately if possible

- B. Wait for the next safety meeting to discuss the hazard
- C. Assume the hazard is not serious until an incident occurs
- D. Address the hazard only if it affects the operator personally

79. A plant has no written lockout/tagout procedure. The appropriate response is:

- A. Continue operation assuming OSHA regulations do not apply
- B. Develop a verbal procedure among operators for consistency
- C. Wait for management to develop written procedures eventually
- D. Report the gap and require written procedures before LOTO work

80. An operator's shift ends but the relief operator has not arrived. The appropriate action is:

- A. Leave the plant unattended at the scheduled end of shift
- B. Lock up and leave regardless of relief arrangements
- C. Remain until proper relief arrives and notify supervision
- D. Ask a non-operator to cover until relief arrives later

81. A safety valve shows evidence of tampering by an unknown person. The correct action is:

- A. Continue operation and hope the tampering was minor
- B. Clean visible tampering marks and continue operation normally
- C. Adjust the valve to compensate for suspected tampering
- D. Remove the boiler from service, investigate, and repair as needed

82. The operator discovers that a feedwater chemistry program's chemicals have been mistakenly substituted with wrong products. The appropriate response is:

- A. Continue operating and observe whether effects develop
- B. Stop the chemical feed and resolve with the treatment vendor
- C. Dilute the wrong chemicals with water to reduce effects
- D. Pump the wrong chemicals through as a partial treatment

83. An operator's license is restricted to low-pressure service, but supervision asks them to operate a high-pressure boiler. The operator should:

- A. Refuse because operating outside license scope is illegal
- B. Agree if supervision provides written authorization
- C. Operate the high-pressure boiler at reduced pressure only
- D. Consult fellow operators before making the decision alone

84. A safety data sheet for a chemical cannot be located when needed. The appropriate action is:

- A. Estimate chemical properties based on similar chemicals used
- B. Proceed with handling and look up information afterwards
- C. Obtain the SDS before handling the chemical in any way
- D. Ask another operator for verbal information about the chemical

85. A fire drill is scheduled during the operator's shift but would interrupt a critical operation. The operator should:

- A. Skip the drill to complete the critical operation first
- B. Take partial credit for drill participation without attending

- C. Explain the conflict and request rescheduling through supervision
- D. Coordinate with supervision to participate safely

86. A visiting engineer suggests a shortcut to save time during startup. The operator should:

- A. Implement the shortcut because engineers know best
- B. Evaluate the suggestion against code and safety requirements
- C. Accept the suggestion if it matches operator intuition
- D. Reject the suggestion without evaluating its merits

87. An operator is asked to sign a waiver releasing the plant from liability for a known hazard. The appropriate response is:

- A. Refuse and consult with the jurisdictional authority as needed
- B. Sign the waiver to maintain good workplace relationships
- C. Sign but document reservations in personal notes privately
- D. Sign only if promised additional compensation for risk

88. The operator notices that the plant's safety valve testing records are inconsistent and incomplete. The appropriate action is:

- A. Continue the pattern to match existing record styles
- B. Create accurate records starting from the current date forward
- C. Reconstruct records from memory for the incomplete periods
- D. Report the records issue and establish proper documentation

89. An operator's training certification is about to expire. The operator should:

- A. Continue operation relying on the expiring certification
- B. Claim the training does not apply to current operations
- C. Arrange re-certification before the current training expires
- D. Ask another operator to cover until re-certification occurs

90. A plant's emergency phone contacts have changed but the posted list has not been updated. The appropriate response is:

- A. Memorize the old numbers and use them in emergencies
- B. Update the posted list with correct current contact numbers
- C. Rely on personal cell phone for emergency communications only
- D. Wait for management to post updated contact information

91. During operation, an operator identifies a minor leak that does not pose immediate danger. The operator should:

- A. Document and plan the repair during the next scheduled maintenance
- B. Ignore the leak since it does not pose immediate danger yet
- C. Apply emergency sealant to stop the leak immediately
- D. Increase system pressure to compensate for the minor leak

92. A safety committee meeting requires operator participation but the operator feels unqualified. The appropriate response is:

- A. Skip the meeting due to lack of perceived qualifications
- B. Attend but remain silent throughout the entire meeting

- C. Send written comments instead of attending the meeting
- D. Attend and contribute based on operational experience

93. An operator notices that the plant's water treatment chemicals are stored near incompatible materials. The appropriate response is:

- A. Continue operation and hope no reaction occurs over time
- B. Move chemicals personally without approval from supervision
- C. Report the hazard and arrange proper chemical segregation
- D. Leave chemicals where they are but warn coworkers verbally

94. A licensed operator transfers to a new plant with different equipment. Before operating independently, they should:

- A. Complete plant-specific orientation and training programs
- B. Begin operation based on general boiler knowledge alone
- C. Ask coworkers for informal verbal operation instructions
- D. Operate at reduced capacity until they become familiar

95. The operator identifies a pattern of near-miss incidents that are not being reported. The appropriate response is:

- A. Continue ignoring near-miss incidents as normal practice
- B. Report the pattern and establish a near-miss reporting system
- C. Document the incidents privately without sharing with management
- D. Confront coworkers responsible for the near-misses only

96. A boiler inspection report identifies a non-compliance that was also present last year. The appropriate response is:

- A. Pay a fine and avoid correcting the recurring non-compliance
- B. Argue that the inspector is being unreasonably strict
- C. Continue operations while disputing the citation indefinitely
- D. Correct the issue permanently to prevent recurrence next year

97. An operator is required to sign for receipt of safety equipment they have not received. The appropriate response is:

- A. Refuse to sign until equipment is actually provided
- B. Sign the form because the equipment is probably coming
- C. Sign a partial receipt for equipment partially delivered
- D. Sign and explain the situation during the next meeting

98. The operator observes a coworker not following confined space entry procedures during a tank inspection. The immediate action is:

- A. Continue their own work and allow the coworker's choice
- B. Watch silently to see if problems develop with the coworker
- C. Stop the unsafe entry and insist on proper procedures
- D. Report the violation after the inspection is completed

99. A plant's CO₂ alarm repeatedly activates and is ignored by operators. The appropriate action is:

- A. Join the practice of ignoring the alarm since others do
- B. Report the ongoing safety issue and demand investigation
- C. Disable the alarm permanently since it is a nuisance
- D. Continue ignoring while hoping someone else addresses it

100. An operator's professional ethical obligation includes:

- A. Following supervisor's instructions without question always
- B. Maintaining confidentiality about all plant information forever
- C. Protecting employer's interests above public safety concerns
- D. Upholding public safety, professional integrity, and legal compliance

PRACTICE EXAM 5: ANSWER KEY

AND FULL EXPLANATIONS

(QUESTIONS 1–100)

1. B — A bypassed LWCO is a life-safety violation that must be corrected immediately, not documented for later action. Shutting off fuel eliminates the immediate hazard, and removing the jumper restores the intended protection. Continued firing with a defeated safety device has produced fatal boiler incidents historically.
2. D — Full cooperation with jurisdictional inspectors is a legal and professional obligation. Delaying or evading inspection is a serious offense that can result in operating restrictions, fines, or license revocation. The inspection authority must be respected regardless of convenience.
3. A — Alerting others and calling for help while not entering an unsafe environment follows the bystander-safety principle. Untrained rescue attempts in confined or hazardous atmospheres have killed more rescuers than victims in many documented incidents. Personal safety enables effective help for the coworker.
4. C — Operating a boiler with a known-failed safety valve is never acceptable regardless of instructions. The safety valve is the final protection against pressure-vessel rupture, and its failure creates immediate catastrophic risk. Operators have both legal and ethical authority to refuse unsafe operations.
5. A — Shutting off fuel and investigating is the correct first action for any fuel leak. Continued operation with an active gas leak risks explosion or fire. Ventilation alone does not address the leak source, which must be identified and repaired before return to service.
6. D — Hot work requires a written permit with a designated fire watch before any welding, cutting, or grinding begins. This protocol exists because hot work has historically started major fires in boiler rooms. No hot work should begin without permit and fire watch in place.
7. B — Expired fire extinguishers may not function when needed. Reporting the condition and arranging prompt re-inspection is the only responsible action. Removing extinguishers leaves the area unprotected; using them anyway assumes functionality that has not been verified.
8. C — Worker impairment is a safety issue that must be reported to supervision immediately. Covering for the coworker or waiting for a mistake risks injury to the impaired worker and others. Supervision has the tools and authority to address impairment through appropriate channels.

9. A — Falsification of records is both unethical and illegal — a criminal offense in most jurisdictions and a violation of professional licensing requirements. Refusing the request is the only acceptable response. Documenting the request and reporting it may also be necessary.
10. D — Evacuation to the designated assembly area is the standard fire alarm response. Attempting to extinguish the fire, retrieving belongings, or calling 911 first all delay evacuation and risk personal injury. Professional fire responders handle firefighting; operators evacuate and account for personnel.
11. C — Outdated emergency procedures should be reported to supervision for update. The operator is not authorized to unilaterally rewrite procedures, but is responsible for recognizing when they are inadequate. Following clearly outdated procedures in an emergency could endanger personnel.
12. B — Tube walls below code minimum must be corrected before the boiler returns to service. Continuing operation, reducing pressure, or deferring the repair all violate ASME code and jurisdictional requirements. Replacement is the standard corrective action for thin tubes.
13. A — A new operator without experience should not be left alone. Contacting supervision to request appropriate coverage is the professional response. Working alone at the edge of their training or seeking remote guidance via phone does not provide the required supervision level.
14. D — Discrepancies between gauge readings must be investigated, not assumed away. Either gauge could be correct or incorrect, and decisions based on the wrong reading could be dangerous. Verification through calibration or cross-checking is the only safe approach.
15. B — Chemical splash requires immediate flushing with water for at least 15 minutes — the OSHA-required response for most chemical exposures. This is why eyewash stations and deluge showers are standard boiler-room equipment. Wiping or covering without flushing can worsen chemical injury.
16. A — Training a person without the required license for the role is a regulatory violation that must be refused and reported. Informal training or hoping for eventual licensing does not cure the compliance gap. Supervision must know immediately so proper credentialing is arranged.
17. C — Pre-purge is a non-negotiable safety step that must be performed completely before any ignition attempt. Skipping, shortening, or substituting post-purge does not provide equivalent protection. Reset and full pre-purge is the only correct recovery.
18. D — Sleeping on duty is a serious safety violation that must be reported through supervision. Waking quietly, covering silently, or helping the colleague all leave the plant unattended by an alert operator — exactly the condition that produces incidents. Supervisory involvement is required.
19. A — A family relationship between the inspector and plant management is a significant conflict of interest that undermines the integrity of inspection. Reporting to the appropriate regulatory

authority ensures impartial oversight. This is not a private family matter when it affects public safety.

20. A — Critical burner startup sequences cannot be safely interrupted for a non-emergency personal call. Completing the startup and then returning the call is the professional response. If the call is a true emergency, handoff to a qualified coworker is better than abandonment.
21. D — Fuel oil spills require immediate shutdown of equipment, spill containment, and supervision notification. This prevents fire risk, environmental damage, and personnel slip injuries. Mopping with paper towels or diluting with water are inappropriate for fuel oil and may worsen the hazard.
22. A — Overdue training must be rescheduled promptly. The operator has both a right and a responsibility to ensure their qualifications are current. Skipping, claiming verbal training, or finding unofficial substitutes all fail to meet the actual training requirement.
23. C — Structural damage to pipe supports can lead to piping failure and requires structural evaluation. Continuing operation, welding without evaluation, or rope reinforcement do not address the structural concern. Qualified engineering review determines the correct corrective action.
24. B — Operating outside license scope is illegal — civil and criminal liability can follow, and the employer faces additional penalties. This is not negotiable by supervisory authorization or informal practice. The new operator must understand this from the outset.
25. D — Planned falsification of inspection records is a criminal act that must be reported. Supporting, remaining neutral, or offering help all make the operator complicit. Professional licensing typically requires operators to report illegal acts by others in the profession.
26. C — Securing the boiler safely and evacuating if needed is the correct emergency priority during power loss. Continuing operation without power is unsafe; waiting for restoration ignores the immediate risk. Safe securing protects the pressure vessel and personnel simultaneously.
27. C — Unusual vibration indicates a developing mechanical problem requiring investigation. Continued operation allows the problem to worsen; masking the symptom with higher speed can accelerate damage. Shutting down without backup feedwater could interrupt boiler operation — investigate first.
28. B — Modifications without documentation updates create operational risk — relying on memory fails as personnel change. The operator should update documentation and notify affected personnel. Reverting without approval or ignoring modifications both create compounding problems.
29. A — Operating with an expired license is illegal and exposes the operator to professional and personal liability. Ceasing operation until renewal is complete is the only acceptable response.

Expiring licenses should be renewed well before expiration; working past expiration is never permitted.

30. D — Site safety orientation is required before plant access for contractors. Refusing access until orientation is complete protects both the contractor and the plant. Substituting verbal instructions or personal monitoring does not meet OSHA requirements or plant safety standards.
31. B — Electrical odors indicate potential equipment overheating or wiring failure that could lead to fire. Shutting off electrical equipment in the affected area stops the source; investigation then identifies the cause. Ventilation does not address the underlying hazard; spraying extinguisher at an unidentified electrical problem is unsafe.
32. A — Accepting a bribe from a contractor is a serious ethical and potentially criminal violation. Refusing and reporting protects professional integrity and plant interests. The operator's authority must never be influenced by personal financial gain.
33. C — Gauge discrepancies must be resolved through verification and calibration, not assumptions. The new gauge is not automatically more accurate; the correct reading must be determined objectively. Operational decisions depend on accurate measurements.
34. D — Safety steps must never be skipped for schedule pressure. The operator's refusal to skip the step protects the plant and everyone in it. Safety procedures exist because every skipped step has historically produced an incident somewhere.
35. B — Hearing protection is required by OSHA at typical boiler-room noise levels. Reminding coworkers and reporting persistent violations is the operator's professional obligation. Ignoring or matching the group practice does not protect hearing health or meet regulatory requirements.
36. A — Small incipient fires may be extinguished if safe to do so, while also alerting others and calling for help. Immediate evacuation without attempting extinguishment abandons the opportunity to control a small fire before it grows. Calling professionals is important but should not prevent reasonable early intervention.
37. D — Degraded ventilation creates worker safety concerns and equipment performance issues. Reporting and requesting corrective action is the appropriate response. Opening doors to the rest of the building spreads heat and may create other hazards; reducing firing rate addresses symptoms but not the ventilation problem.
38. C — OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard requires operators to read the Safety Data Sheet before handling any chemical. Estimating properties from similar chemicals, relying on verbal instructions, or using minimal amounts to test reactions all fail to meet the legal requirement. SDSs must be read and understood.

39. A — Acknowledging the oversight and supporting the investigation fully is the professional response. Arguing, blaming timing, or challenging the inspector all undermine the operator's credibility and the integrity of the inspection process. Honesty is the expected standard.
40. B — Overdue inspections are code violations that must be corrected. Scheduling the overdue inspection immediately through proper channels restores compliance. Continuing operation, informal inspection, or waiting for the inspector all fail to address the overdue status.
41. A — Proper alarm investigation is a fundamental safety discipline. Refusing to bypass proper procedures is the correct response regardless of the senior operator's habits. Resetting without investigation is the pattern that has led to numerous documented boiler incidents.
42. C — Missing required OSHA signage is a compliance issue that must be reported to supervision. The operator is not responsible for supplying their own signs, but is responsible for ensuring the plant meets regulatory requirements. Ignoring or assuming it's someone else's problem is not acceptable.
43. D — Lunch gifts in exchange for favorable reports are bribery, which is a serious code violation and often a criminal offense. Refusing and reporting is the only acceptable response. Both the giver and the receiver can face severe penalties in these situations.
44. B — Failed emergency lighting must be repaired. Reporting the failure and arranging repair restores the required emergency protection. Ignoring it, supplementing with personal flashlights, or assuming functionality all fail during the actual emergency when the lighting is needed.
45. A — Chemical protective gloves with holes no longer provide protection. Immediate replacement before any chemical contact is the only acceptable response. Duct tape patches, wearing them with frequent hand washing, or delaying chemical handling all fail to protect against chemical exposure.
46. C — Illegal dumping is an environmental crime that must be reported to appropriate authorities. Documenting the incident preserves evidence; asking the driver to stop or cleaning up afterward fails to address the illegal act. Reporting protects the environment and the facility from liability.
47. B — Any injury to a visitor requires immediate first aid and proper documentation. Lecturing, blaming, or hiding the incident all fail the injured person and create additional legal and professional problems. Incident reporting is legally required and professionally standard.
48. D — Media inquiries should be referred to management for official statements. Providing detailed information, sharing opinions about management or coworkers, or answering substantive questions all risk unauthorized disclosure. Media relations is a management function, not an operator responsibility.
49. C — Completing the critical startup safely, then addressing the union representative, balances operational responsibility with labor relations. Stopping the startup creates operational risk;

ignoring the representative damages the relationship; dismissing them alone is unprofessional. The operator's primary duty is safe operation.

50. C — Drum weld cracks are serious safety concerns requiring immediate reporting and qualified inspection. Monitoring without reporting risks catastrophic failure; cold-weld patches are not acceptable pressure-boundary repairs; ignoring small cracks is dangerous because they propagate. Professional structural evaluation is required.
51. B — Unlicensed persons cannot operate boilers regardless of their relationship to the operator. Politely refusing because operation requires proper licensing is the correct response. Demonstrating, supervising, or recording the operation for later viewing all create compliance and safety problems.
52. B — Data falsification must be reported and accurate records insisted upon. Continuing the pattern, limited discussion with peers, or creating secondary records all fail to address the root problem. Boiler logs are legal documents, and their integrity affects safety, insurance, and regulatory compliance.
53. A — Focus on the emergency shutdown first, then return the call when safe. Emergency shutdowns are high-stakes operations where attention cannot be divided. If the family emergency is life-threatening, a coworker can receive the handoff; otherwise, the call waits briefly.
54. C — Safety meetings are professionally important even when not strictly required. Attending builds the operator's knowledge and demonstrates professional commitment. Skipping, substituting past notes, or partial attendance all fail to get the full benefit of the safety culture the meetings represent.
55. D — Theft is a workplace policy violation that must be reported through proper channels. Ignoring, confronting directly, or returning stolen items silently all fail to address the misconduct properly. Supervision has the authority and procedures to address theft appropriately.
56. B — Unannounced regulatory inspections require full cooperation and accurate information. Delaying, hiding violations, or requesting rescheduling are all serious additional violations that compound any existing compliance issues. Transparency is the only professional response.
57. A — Citations require supervision notification and prompt corrective action. Arguing with the inspector, attempting bribery, or ignoring the citation all create additional serious consequences. The citation must be addressed within the required timeframe to restore compliance.
58. C — Work authorization must be verified through proper channels before allowing contractor work. Signing alone is not sufficient proof of authorization; allowing work while verifying creates risk if the authorization is invalid. Verification prevents unauthorized work in critical areas.
59. D — Chemistry programs should be reviewed and updated with vendor support. Continuing an outdated program assumes its ongoing effectiveness; updating independently or comparing with

industry standards alone lack the vendor's expertise. Treatment vendors have the technical resources for proper program updates.

60. B — Operating above rated capacity violates code and risks equipment damage. Refusing and explaining the restrictions is the professional response. Running briefly, asking another operator, or complying create immediate risk regardless of management pressure. Operator licenses exist specifically to empower this refusal.
61. C — Documented and reported absences from safety drills are essential for compliance tracking and ensuring coverage. Ignoring, excusing privately, or conducting makeup drills personally all fail to address the pattern at the organizational level where it can be corrected.
62. A — Fire department inspectors have legal authority to access the facility, and cooperation is both professional and legally required. Delaying, requesting warrants, or refusing access all create serious legal problems. The fire department is a safety partner, not an adversary.
63. D — Persistent alarms require root-cause investigation. Silencing repeatedly, disabling, or ignoring the alarm all create dangerous conditions where the underlying problem can develop into a major incident. Shutdown to investigate is appropriate if the cause cannot be quickly determined.
64. B — Supplier gifts in exchange for product recommendations create conflicts of interest and bias technical decisions. Declining gifts and evaluating products on technical merit is the professional standard. Accepting any gifts, even small ones, begins the pattern that compromises objectivity.
65. C — Co-op students observe and learn from senior operators. Correcting unsafe behavior and reinforcing proper standards is both the ethical and educational response. Teaching students that rule violations are acceptable creates dangerous precedents for the next generation of operators.
66. A — Untreated wastewater discharge violates environmental regulations and must be reported to both environmental authorities and management. The violation is too serious for the operator to address alone, and the employer's interests do not override public environmental protection requirements.
67. D — A missing gauge cock removes a required safety component. Shutting down to repair the safety-critical component is the only acceptable response. Operating without it, using pipe sealant, or deferring repair all fail to maintain the required safety arrangement.
68. B — Declining an extended shift due to fatigue is the right response when safety is at stake. Working fatigued has caused documented boiler incidents. Taking stimulants, working half the shift, or agreeing despite fatigue all compromise the judgment needed for safe operation.
69. A — Jurisdictional inspectors receiving regular gifts is a corruption pattern that must be reported to the jurisdictional authority. Continuing or amplifying the practice is complicity; ignoring it allows systematic compromise of the inspection process. Integrity of inspection is essential for public safety.

70. D — Social media disputes about coworkers damage workplace relationships and professional reputation. Declining to engage and suggesting professional resolution channels is the mature response. Joining, forwarding, or replying all escalate the conflict unnecessarily.
71. C — Welder certification must be verified before accepting pressure-boundary repairs. This is a code and insurance requirement. Accepting based on appearance, testing only at low pressure, or visual inspection alone all fail to meet the verification standards required for pressure boundary repairs.
72. B — Outdated training content should be flagged for update while still completing the required training. This supports professional development and improves future training sessions. Skipping or ignoring the issues fails to address the deficiency; dismissing the training entirely misses any valid content.
73. C — Contractor documentation is required before accepting completed work. Insisting on proper documentation protects the plant, enables future maintenance planning, and meets accounting/legal requirements. Accepting work without documentation, or providing it on the contractor's behalf, creates liability gaps.
74. A — Blocked emergency exits must be cleared immediately. Delaying until next cleaning, documenting for later, or identifying alternatives all fail to address the immediate life-safety issue. Exits must be available at all times for evacuation scenarios.
75. C — De-escalation and professional behavior is the correct response to angry confrontations. Arguing, threatening, or ignoring the person all escalate or leave the situation unresolved. Supervision should be involved if the conflict continues, providing a clear chain for resolution.
76. D — New hires cannot safely work without required PPE. Stopping work until proper PPE is provided protects both the new hire and the plant. Allowing work, providing personal spares without reporting, or suggesting purchase all fail to address the systemic gap where the plant should provide required PPE.
77. B — Falsifying log signatures to indicate work one did not perform is fraud. Refusing to sign is the only acceptable response. The request itself is a red flag warranting supervision notification. Agreements to reciprocate or partial entries are still fraud.
78. A — Immediate documentation, reporting, and mitigation if possible is the standard response to identified hazards. Waiting for meetings, assuming non-severity, or addressing only personal impact all delay the response while the hazard exists. Prompt action minimizes risk to all personnel.
79. D — OSHA requires written lockout/tagout procedures for any facility performing LOTO work. Reporting the gap and requiring written procedures before further LOTO is the correct response. Assuming regulations don't apply, verbal procedures, or waiting for management all create serious compliance failures.

80. C — Remaining until proper relief arrives and notifying supervision maintains the required operator presence. Leaving a boiler unattended, even briefly, violates the fundamental operator responsibility. Non-operators cannot provide the required coverage; notifying supervision allows proper arrangement.
81. D — Safety valve tampering requires removal from service, investigation, and professional repair. The tampering may have altered the valve's protective function; cleaning the marks or adjusting without repair does not verify the valve's integrity. This is a pressure-vessel safety issue requiring a qualified repair.
82. B — Chemical substitution creates unknown operational and safety risks. Stopping the feed and resolving with the vendor is the appropriate response. Continuing, diluting, or partial feeding all risk chemical reactions or damage from inappropriate treatment. The vendor's technical support is essential.
83. A — License restrictions define the legal scope of operation. Operating outside scope is illegal even with supervisory authorization. Refusing the assignment protects both the operator's license and the plant. Written authorization does not cure a licensing violation.
84. C — OSHA requires the SDS be consulted before handling chemicals. Proceeding without it violates Hazard Communication requirements. Similar chemicals may behave differently; looking up information afterwards does not protect against exposure; verbal information is not reliable substitute for written SDS guidance.
85. D — Coordinating with supervision to participate safely in fire drills balances critical operations with required training. Skipping, taking credit without attending, or rescheduling unilaterally all fail to meet the drill requirement. Supervision has the authority to coordinate with the drill organizers.
86. B — Engineering suggestions must be evaluated against code and safety requirements, not accepted based on authority or intuition. This is the operator's professional responsibility regardless of who makes the suggestion. Unsafe shortcuts cause incidents regardless of their source.
87. A — Liability waivers for known hazards typically cannot legally transfer responsibility for unsafe conditions. Refusing and consulting with the jurisdictional authority protects the operator and may prevent illegal employer practices. Signing to maintain relationships or for compensation does not change the underlying unsafe condition.
88. D — Inconsistent and incomplete records must be corrected through proper documentation establishment, not by continuing the pattern or reconstructing from memory. Reporting the records issue to supervision ensures the documentation program is strengthened going forward.
89. C — Training certifications must be renewed before they expire to maintain qualification. Arranging re-certification proactively avoids operational gaps. Continuing with expired

certification, claiming inapplicability, or requesting coverage all fail to address the renewal requirement.

90. B — Emergency contact lists must be kept current. Updating the posted list is a simple corrective action the operator can take or arrange. Memorizing old numbers, relying on personal phones, or waiting for others all leave the gap in place where emergencies could occur.
91. A — Minor leaks should be documented and planned for scheduled maintenance rather than ignored. This tracks the condition and ensures repair at an appropriate time. Ignoring, sealing with emergency materials, or increasing pressure to compensate all create additional problems.
92. D — Operational experience is valuable in safety committees. Attending and contributing based on that experience benefits the committee regardless of whether the operator feels academically qualified. Skipping, remaining silent, or substituting written comments all fail to contribute the operator's perspective.
93. C — Incompatible chemical storage creates reaction and fire hazards. Reporting and arranging proper segregation is the correct response. Continuing to hope, unilateral moving, or leaving chemicals with verbal warnings all fail to address the hazard through proper channels.
94. A — Plant-specific orientation is essential before independent operation, regardless of prior experience. Each plant has unique equipment, procedures, and hazards. Beginning with general knowledge, informal instructions, or reduced capacity does not substitute for proper orientation.
95. B — Near-miss patterns must be reported and a proper reporting system established. Near-misses are warning signs of systemic issues; continuing to ignore them allows the pattern to escalate into actual incidents. Private documentation or confrontation alone does not address the organizational gap.
96. D — Recurring non-compliance indicates a systemic issue that must be corrected permanently. Paying fines, arguing, or disputing indefinitely all continue the recurrence. Permanent correction breaks the pattern and prevents future citations and their associated risks.
97. A — Refusing to sign for equipment not actually received prevents fraud and maintains accurate records. Signing prematurely, for partial delivery, or with later explanation all create records that do not match reality. Accurate documentation is a professional obligation.
98. C — Stopping unsafe confined space entry is essential — confined space incidents often kill multiple people when rescuers rush in unprotected. Continuing own work, watching silently, or waiting until afterward all allow the preventable incident to potentially occur.
99. B — Persistent alarm ignoring is a serious safety culture failure that must be reported and investigated. Joining the practice, disabling, or continuing to ignore all compound the underlying problem. The alarm exists for a reason, and the reason must be understood.

100. D — Professional ethical obligations include public safety, professional integrity, and legal compliance — all three together. Following instructions without question, maintaining confidentiality above safety, or prioritizing employer interests above public safety all fail the professional standard. Public safety is paramount.