

PRACTICE EXAM 6: SIMULATION

1. You arrive first at a two-story commercial building with smoke showing from the second floor. Dispatch reports the building may be occupied. After a 360-degree walkaround, what should you do NEXT?

- A. Begin overhaul operations on the first floor
- B. Develop and communicate an initial action plan based on your size-up
- C. Wait for the investigator before taking any action
- D. Release the first-arriving engine to return to quarters

2. During a company inspection, an owner becomes hostile and disputes a documented egress violation, insisting it is not a problem. After explaining the hazard calmly without resolution, what is your best next step?

- A. Force compliance by threatening immediate arrest
- B. Drop the violation to preserve the relationship
- C. Alter the report to remove the contested finding
- D. Document it accurately and refer it to the proper authority

3. A probationary firefighter repeatedly struggles with a specific skill that will be tested soon. You have time before the evaluation. What is the most appropriate action?

- A. Recommend the firefighter be terminated immediately
- B. Wait and address it only if they fail the test
- C. Provide focused coaching on the specific skill now

D. Ignore it since probationary members often improve alone

4. Mid-incident, conditions deteriorate and you order an emergency evacuation of the structure. Crews report they are exiting. What must you do before considering the withdrawal complete?

A. Conduct a PAR to confirm all members are accounted for

B. Begin the post-incident analysis immediately

C. Notify the property owner of the evacuation

D. Reposition apparatus for a defensive operation

5. A long-reliable firefighter has become irritable, withdrawn, and is making errors. You suspect a personal issue. During a private conversation, the member discloses significant stress. What is your most appropriate next step?

A. Document the conversation as a disciplinary matter

B. Express concern and refer them to the EAP

C. Diagnose the underlying condition yourself

D. Share the situation with the crew for support

6. You are first-due at a fire in a building you inspected last month. You recall a large quantity of stored flammable liquids in the rear. How should this knowledge most appropriately influence your next decision?

A. Disregard it since conditions may have changed

B. Delay all action until the owner confirms the storage

C. Factor the hazard into your size-up and action plan

D. Assume the hazard makes any attack impossible

7. A crew member, acting on their own initiative, leaves their assigned position to perform an unrelated task without informing you. You observe this during the incident. What should you do?

A. Praise the initiative and let them continue

B. Address the freelancing and reestablish coordination

C. Ignore it to avoid undermining their confidence

D. Reassign the entire crew to that task as well

8. While completing an incident report, you realize you cannot recall the exact time the fire was brought under control. What is the most appropriate action?

A. Estimate a time that seems approximately right

B. Determine the accurate time from available records

C. Leave the field blank and submit the report

D. Omit any reference to control times entirely

9. You are preparing a public education session and learn the audience will be a senior living community. Given fire risk data, how should you prioritize your content?

A. Tailor it to older adults as a high-risk group

B. Use the same content designed for schoolchildren

C. Focus exclusively on commercial fire codes

D. Present detailed national fire statistics only

10. A citizen calls the station upset about a perceived rude interaction with a crew member at a recent call. After listening fully, you determine the matter is within your authority to address. What should you do NEXT?

- A. Gather the facts and take appropriate corrective action
- B. Tell the citizen the crew is always professional
- C. Dismiss the complaint as likely exaggerated
- D. Refer it to the chief without any further action

11. You assign an interior attack to one crew and a search to another at a working fire. Moments later you realize you did not clearly communicate the safety considerations for the deteriorating roof. What should you do?

- A. Assume the crews already understand the risk
- B. Wait until after the incident to address it
- C. Communicate the roof hazard to the crews immediately
- D. Cancel both assignments without explanation

12. During overhaul, you discover what appears to be a second, separate point of origin in a different room. The fire's cause is now in question. What is your most appropriate next action?

- A. Continue overhaul to fully expose both areas
- B. Conclude the fire was accidental and release the scene
- C. Question the occupant to identify a suspect
- D. Limit disturbance, secure the scene, and notify an investigator

13. A new policy requires a documentation step your crew finds cumbersome. Several members ask you to let them skip it. You believe the policy is sound. What should you do?

- A. Allow them to skip it to maintain morale
- B. Enforce the policy consistently and explain its purpose
- C. Tell them to skip it but document compliance anyway
- D. Selectively enforce it only for some members

14. You are establishing command at a growing incident and find that too many companies are reporting directly to you, overwhelming your ability to supervise. What should you do?

- A. Continue managing all companies yourself
- B. Expand the ICS structure to maintain manageable span of control
- C. Stop communicating with the companies entirely
- D. Have the dispatcher manage the companies instead

15. A member is injured during a training evolution. After ensuring they receive care, you begin investigating. You identify the immediate cause but suspect deeper issues. What should you do NEXT?

- A. Close the investigation with the immediate cause
- B. Assign blame to the injured member
- C. Calculate the cost of any damaged equipment
- D. Identify the underlying contributing factors

16. During size-up at a residential fire, neighbors report that an elderly resident is likely still inside. Conditions currently favor an interior attack and resources are adequate. What should drive your next decision?

- A. Property conservation as the leading priority
- B. Documentation of the incident before acting
- C. Life safety, supporting a calculated-risk rescue effort
- D. Delaying action until more resources arrive

17. You are completing a performance evaluation and notice you are focusing heavily on one impressive incident from the rating period. You want the evaluation to be fair. What should you do?

- A. Base the rating primarily on that single incident
- B. Rate the member average to avoid any conflict
- C. Allow personal feelings to shape the rating
- D. Assess the full period using ongoing documentation

18. At a high-rise fire, you need to supply water to crews operating on an upper floor. The building has a standpipe system. What is your most appropriate consideration?

- A. Locate the fire department connection to supplement the system
- B. Shut off the building's electrical supply first
- C. Rely solely on the building's smoke detectors
- D. Assume the standpipe requires no department support

19. A firefighter transmits a Mayday during interior operations. You are managing the incident. What must your response prioritize?

- A. Continuing the existing fire attack unchanged
- B. Completing the incident report first
- C. An immediate, organized rescue of the firefighter
- D. Determining the fire's area of origin

20. You notice your crew has begun bypassing a required safety check during apparatus operations because it "wastes time." What is the most appropriate response?

- A. Correct it consistently to prevent a dangerous norm
- B. Adopt the bypass formally as a time-saving measure
- C. Reward the crew for improving efficiency
- D. Ignore it since no incident has resulted yet

21. A close friend on your crew commits the same minor infraction for which you recently counseled another member. To maintain fairness, what should you do?

- A. Apply the same consistent response you gave the other member
- B. Overlook it because of your friendship
- C. Punish your friend more harshly to avoid appearing biased
- D. Reassign your friend to another company

22. You are conducting a pre-incident survey and find a sprinkler control valve in the closed position. The building manager says it was closed for maintenance weeks ago. What is the most significant concern?

- A. The closed valve increases the building's water pressure
- B. The closed valve improves system reliability
- C. The closed valve indicates an overactive alarm
- D. The system is currently unable to control a fire

23. During an incident, a battalion chief arrives and is ready to take command. You currently hold command. What is the appropriate way to proceed?

- A. Continue command silently without informing the chief
- B. Conduct an explicit, communicated transfer of command
- C. Wait until the incident concludes to transfer
- D. Let the dispatcher handle the command transfer

24. You recognize that an experienced, reliable crew member now handles routine assignments with full competence. How should you adjust your supervisory approach?

- A. Move toward delegating with greater autonomy
- B. Increase close, step-by-step oversight
- C. Revert to strictly directive control
- D. Withdraw all support and guidance abruptly

25. A citizen complaint alleges a member committed serious misconduct that may have legal implications. After listening courteously, what is your most appropriate next step?

- A. Resolve the matter entirely at the company level
- B. Dismiss it because such complaints are usually false
- C. Discuss the allegation openly with the whole crew
- D. Document it and refer it to higher authority

26. You arrive at a closed structure showing smoke pulsing at the seams of a door, with no visible flame and oily residue on the windows. A crew is preparing to force entry. What should you do?

- A. Order immediate forcible entry without ventilation
- B. Recognize backdraft indicators and coordinate proper tactics
- C. Assume the fire is fully controlled inside
- D. Conclude the structure is in the decay stage and safe

27. During a fire, you must decide whether to commit crews interior. The building is fully involved, confirmed vacant, and shows signs of structural failure. What strategy and rationale apply?

- A. Defensive operations, because no savable life or property remains
- B. Offensive attack, because property must be conserved first
- C. Interior search, because every building must be searched
- D. Aggressive interior attack, regardless of conditions

28. A member raises a legitimate safety concern about a planned training evolution. You are eager to keep the schedule. What is the most appropriate response?

- A. Pause to address the concern before proceeding
- B. Dismiss it to stay on schedule
- C. Reprimand the member for questioning the plan
- D. Proceed and address the concern only if an injury occurs

29. You are deploying resources at an escalating incident and recognize that the fire is likely to outpace your current crews. What should you do NEXT?

- A. Wait until the fire clearly overwhelms current resources
- B. Request additional resources early, anticipating the need
- C. Reduce operations to match available resources
- D. Avoid requesting help to limit documentation

30. During a PIA after a difficult incident, a member admits to a tactical error. You want the analysis to remain valuable. How should you respond?

- A. Immediately initiate disciplinary proceedings
- B. Single the member out for criticism
- C. End the analysis to prevent further admissions
- D. Focus on the lesson learned rather than blame

31. A crew member providing patient care reports a possible exposure to blood during the call. After the incident, what is your most appropriate next step?

- A. Ignore it unless the member develops symptoms
- B. Tell the member to handle it on their own
- C. Record it only if the patient is known to be infected
- D. Ensure it is reported and managed per procedure

32. You must communicate a critical tactical order over the radio in a very noisy environment. To ensure the order is received accurately, what should you require?

- A. That the message be transmitted only once, quickly
- B. An acknowledgment and repeat-back from the receiving crew
- C. That the crew avoid acknowledging to save airtime
- D. That the order be delivered entirely in coded language

33. While organizing your shift, you face a stream of minor, urgent-feeling interruptions that threaten your scheduled training time. How should you handle your priorities?

- A. Protect the training time, deferring low-value interruptions
- B. Abandon training to handle every interruption immediately
- C. Cancel both training and the interruptions indefinitely
- D. Address whatever arrives first regardless of value

34. A first-arriving officer at a small incident must ensure clear command. Several arriving crews are unsure who is in charge. What should the officer do?

- A. Let each crew operate independently
- B. Establish and clearly announce command
- C. Defer all tactical decisions to dispatch
- D. Wait for a chief before taking any action

35. You are reading fire patterns to estimate where a fire began and observe a distinct "V" pattern on a wall. How should you interpret it during your preliminary determination?

- A. As the building's occupancy classification
- B. As the required fire flow for the structure
- C. As the retail value of the loss
- D. As an indicator of fire travel toward the origin

36. A member's personal problem appears to involve a possible threat of harm to self. You recognize the seriousness. What is your most appropriate action?

- A. Wait to see if the situation resolves on its own
- B. Keep it confidential and take no action
- C. Address it casually at the next crew meeting
- D. Act promptly through proper channels and resources

37. You are evaluating a building's fire protection during pre-planning and confirm a sprinkler system is installed. Beyond its presence, what must you also verify?

- A. The original purchase price of the system
- B. That the system is in service and unimpaired
- C. The brand names of all components
- D. The political jurisdiction of the owner

38. A new lieutenant is tempted to avoid enforcing standards so the former peers will continue to like them. You are mentoring this lieutenant. What guidance best serves them?

- A. Maximize the crew's affection by relaxing all standards
- B. Assert authority through fear and rigidity
- C. Build trust through consistent, fair enforcement
- D. Eliminate standards entirely to reduce conflict

39. During a fire, you assign a crew a tactical objective but give vague instructions without confirming understanding. You realize the risk this creates. What should you do?

- A. Assume the crew will figure out the details
- B. Wait until the incident ends to clarify
- C. Clearly restate the objective and confirm understanding
- D. Cancel the assignment without explanation

40. A community risk reduction effort in your district targets frequent cooking fires identified in local data. As the company officer, what is your most valuable contribution?

- A. Setting the department's overall CRR budget
- B. Carrying the plan to residents and identifying local risks
- C. Authoring the citywide strategic CRR plan
- D. Approving interventions for every district

41. You arrive at a fire in a building of Type V wood-frame construction that is well-involved. Knowing the construction type, what should most influence your tactical assessment?

- A. That masonry walls will prevent any collapse
- B. That the building is immune to fire spread
- C. The combustible framing's contribution to spread and collapse risk
- D. That fire-resistive elements guarantee structural integrity

42. A member is consistently exceeding expectations and you want to reinforce that performance effectively. Based on motivation principles, what is often most powerful?

- A. Withholding feedback to avoid complacency
- B. A purely financial reward with no acknowledgment
- C. Ignoring it since the work is already good
- D. Sincere, specific recognition of the achievement

43. You discover that a recent company training session occurred but was never documented. From a compliance standpoint, what should you do?

- A. Treat the undocumented session as fully sufficient
- B. Regard it as superior to documented sessions
- C. Assume documentation is unnecessary since members attended
- D. Recognize that, practically, it may be treated as never occurring

44. During an incident, you continually reassess changing conditions and adjust your action plan accordingly. A junior officer asks why you keep reassessing. What is the best explanation?

- A. Size-up is a one-time snapshot taken only on arrival
- B. Size-up is continuous and must inform the evolving plan
- C. Size-up is the dispatcher's responsibility, not yours
- D. Size-up occurs only during the post-incident analysis

45. A business owner is defensive about a violation you identified during an inspection. You want to achieve compliance. What approach is most effective?

- A. Explain the hazard and the correction needed cooperatively
- B. Threaten immediate legal penalties to force action
- C. Abandon the inspection to avoid the conflict
- D. Report the owner to law enforcement immediately

46. You assign a clearly defined task with adequate resources, explicit safety considerations, and confirmation of understanding to a crew. Even so, who remains answerable for the outcome?

- A. The crew alone, since the task was delegated
- B. The dispatcher who logged the assignment
- C. You, the officer, who retains accountability
- D. No one, because responsibility transferred fully

47. A citizen at a community event asks what your department actually does beyond fighting fires. To respond well, what should you be prepared to articulate?

- A. The department's detailed budget line items
- B. The department's expanded role and mission
- C. The apparatus maintenance schedule
- D. The internal disciplinary procedures

48. You must correct a crew member for a performance issue. Several other members are nearby. To follow sound practice, where should you deliver the correction?

- A. In front of the nearby members for transparency
- B. Privately, away from the other members
- C. Over the open radio for everyone to learn
- D. In a notice posted in the day room

49. During a fire, a savable occupant may be trapped, conditions favor entry, and resources are adequate. Applying the risk management principle, what is the appropriate approach?

- A. Take no risk under any circumstances
- B. Risk everything regardless of conditions
- C. Take a calculated risk to protect the savable life
- D. Prioritize property conservation over the rescue

49b placeholder removed.

50. You recognize that the department's public image is built from countless individual member interactions. A crew member behaves unprofessionally toward a citizen in public. What should you do?

- A. Address the conduct, as it affects the department's image
- B. Ignore it since the member was off the clock
- C. Excuse it because the citizen was not a victim
- D. Document it only if a formal complaint is filed

51. You are first-due and recognize lightweight engineered structural components that can fail rapidly under fire. How should this most directly influence your decision?

- A. Inform your collapse-risk assessment and tactical choice
- B. Determine the community education topic to present
- C. Set the department's budget category
- D. Establish the chain of custody for evidence

52. A member complies with your orders only because you can impose discipline. You recognize this reliance. What is the limitation of depending on this base of power?

- A. It guarantees the deepest loyalty over time
- B. Overuse breeds resentment and fear
- C. It automatically earns genuine respect
- D. It requires no competence on your part

53. During a pre-incident survey, you record hydrant locations, available flow, and a nearby static source. You are assessing which critical firefighting factor?

- A. The building's occupancy classification
- B. The structure's fire resistance rating
- C. The water supply available for firefighting
- D. The department's annual operating budget

54. A complaint turns out to be unfounded, but the citizen remains hostile and raises their voice. To protect the department's image, how should you conduct yourself?

- A. Argue the facts firmly until the citizen concedes
- B. Dismiss the citizen since the complaint is baseless
- C. Remain calm and professional regardless of demeanor
- D. Match the citizen's hostile tone to assert authority

55. You are mentoring a junior member's overall professional growth over the coming years, distinct from fixing a single skill. This long-term guidance is best described as what?

- A. Mentoring
- B. Coaching a specific skill
- C. Progressive discipline
- D. A formal grievance process

56. At a fire, you decide on an offensive strategy and must now direct the specific operations to carry it out. Which of the following is an example of a supporting tactic?

- A. Advancing an interior attack line to the fire
- B. Selecting the overall offensive approach itself
- C. Establishing the incident's broad objectives
- D. Setting the department's strategic priorities

57. A firefighter is lost inside a structure and the accountability system is active. How does the accountability system most directly support the rescue?

- A. By calculating the building's required fire flow
- B. By determining the fire's area of origin
- C. By identifying who is in distress and their assignment
- D. By recording the incident for the budget

58. You are documenting a fire investigation and must record both observations and conclusions. To meet professional standards, what should you do?

- A. Blend facts and opinions together for readability
- B. Record only speculation about the likely suspect
- C. Omit factual observations to remain concise
- D. Clearly distinguish observed facts from conclusions

59. A minor, first-time procedural error is committed by an otherwise competent member. Under progressive discipline, what is the most appropriate initial response?

- A. Immediate suspension without pay
- B. A formal written reprimand in the file
- C. A recommendation for termination
- D. Informal counseling or coaching to correct it

60. During size-up, you draw on the pre-incident plan, dispatch information, and observations made en route, before you even arrive. A trainee asks when size-up begins. What is the correct answer?

- A. Only at the moment of arrival on scene
- B. Before arrival, drawing on available information
- C. Only after the fire has been controlled
- D. Exclusively during the post-incident analysis

61. You find combustible storage stacked against an active heat source during an inspection. Understanding the fire triangle, why is this hazardous, and what should you do?

- A. It removes oxygen, so no action is needed
- B. It cools the ignition source, so it is harmless
- C. It dangerously combines fuel and heat; require correction
- D. It eliminates the fuel load, so it is acceptable

62. A grievance is filed by a member alleging a policy was violated. As the officer, how should you regard and handle it?

- A. As a personal attack to be resisted
- B. As grounds for disciplining the member
- C. As something to ignore until it escalates
- D. As a legitimate matter to handle professionally per procedure

63. You are returning from an incident and observe a crew member without a fastened seatbelt. Given fatality data, what should you do and why?

- A. Ignore it since seatbelts affect only fuel economy
- B. Address it only during emergency response code
- C. Note it solely for insurance documentation
- D. Enforce seatbelt use, as crashes are a leading preventable cause of death

63b placeholder removed.

64. A pre-incident plan for a target hazard is several years old, and the building has changed occupancy since. You are responding to that building now. How should you treat the plan?

- A. Rely on it entirely without verification
- B. Use it as a starting point but verify conditions on scene
- C. Assume it cancels the dispatch automatically
- D. Discard all pre-planning for that district

65. You are explaining heat transfer to a recruit and describe a fire igniting a neighboring building across an alley without contact. Which mechanism is this, and why does it matter operationally?

- A. Conduction through a shared beam, affecting only that beam
- B. Convection within a sealed room, with no exposure risk
- C. Radiation across space, creating exposure-protection needs
- D. Direct flame impingement only, requiring no exposure protection

66. During an incident, crews must operate within the ICS structure rather than acting independently. A crew proposes a freelance maneuver they believe is helpful. What should you do?

- A. Approve it to encourage initiative
- B. Allow it since ICS is only a guideline
- C. Deny it and keep operations within the command structure
- D. Reassign all crews to the freelance task

67. You are setting expectations for a newly assembled crew. Why is it important to communicate clear standards at the outset?

- A. Members cannot fairly be held to standards never communicated
- B. It eliminates the need to ever document performance
- C. It guarantees no member will make any mistake
- D. It allows you to skip all future evaluations

68. A fire scene shows clear indicators of being deliberately set. As a Fire Officer I, what is the appropriate limit of your role?

- A. Recognize the need for expert investigation and protect the scene
- B. Make a final, conclusive arson determination yourself
- C. Interrogate witnesses to obtain a confession
- D. Close the case as accidental to avoid complications

69. You are choosing a leadership style for an inexperienced crew operating under significant time pressure at an emergency. Which style is most appropriate?

- A. A laissez-faire style with minimal direction
- B. A consensus style requiring full agreement
- C. A delegative style granting complete autonomy
- D. A directive style providing clear, close direction

70. After a structure fire, you conduct a review examining building behavior, tactics, water supply, and safety, then update the pre-incident plan. This process most directly improves what?

- A. The fire's chain of custody
- B. The department's tax rate
- C. The building's occupancy classification
- D. Future training, pre-plans, and procedures

71. A firefighter's turnout gear is heavily contaminated after a fire. You enforce immediate decontamination. What long-term threat does this most directly address?

- A. Occupational cancer from absorbed carcinogens
- B. The weight of the protective ensemble
- C. The cost of laundering station uniforms
- D. The time required to don the gear

72. You must transfer command during an active incident to an arriving chief. Crews are operating throughout the structure. To maintain continuity, what should you do?

- A. Transfer command silently without announcement
- B. Communicate the transfer explicitly to those on scene
- C. Wait until the incident fully concludes
- D. Let the dispatcher perform the transfer

73. You are delivering a fire safety message intended to change behavior in an adult audience. What approach is most effective?

- A. Overwhelm them with as many statistics as possible
- B. Provide a few clear, actionable messages
- C. Focus only on frightening worst-case outcomes
- D. Tailor the content to your own interests as presenter

74. A firefighter reports to two supervisors during an incident and receives conflicting orders. You recognize the organizational problem. Which principle has been violated, and what should be restored?

- A. Span of control; reduce the number of crews
- B. Modular organization; collapse the structure
- C. Common terminology; standardize the language
- D. Unity of command; ensure one supervisor per member

75. During an inspection you find a rear exit chained shut during business hours. The owner says it prevents theft. What should you do?

- A. Accept the explanation and take no action
- B. Treat it as a cosmetic issue of low priority
- C. Ignore it since security is the owner's concern
- D. Address it as a critical egress hazard requiring correction

76. You recognize that the formal performance evaluation should hold no surprises. A member is shocked by a serious issue raised for the first time. What does this reveal?

- A. A failure to provide ongoing feedback beforehand
- B. That the evaluation system worked perfectly
- C. That surprises indicate strong supervision
- D. That documentation should have been skipped

77. At an incident, you assign adequate, appropriate resources to clearly communicated objectives, coordinated to work together. A crew begins duplicating another's effort. What does this most likely indicate?

- A. The coordination was unnecessary
- B. The resources were excessive overall
- C. A gap in clear assignment or coordination
- D. An improvement in operational efficiency

78. You apply the principle "praise in public, correct in private." A crew performs exceptionally well on a difficult call. How should you handle the recognition?

- A. Withhold it to keep expectations high
- B. Deliver public recognition of the accomplishment
- C. Recognize it only privately, never openly
- D. Channel it through a disciplinary process

79. A member's performance has declined and you have continuous documentation showing a gradual change over months. During the evaluation, how does this documentation help you?

- A. It justifies skipping the formal evaluation
- B. It eliminates the need for any feedback
- C. It supports a fair assessment of the full period
- D. It allows you to rate the member as average

80. You are first-due at a commercial fire and must rapidly evaluate construction, occupancy, life safety, conditions, resources, and hazards. This ongoing evaluation is known as what, and when does it end?

- A. The pre-incident plan, ending before dispatch
- B. The post-incident analysis, ending at the start
- C. The personnel accountability report, ending at arrival
- D. Size-up, continuing until the incident is over

81. A crew habitually takes an unsafe shortcut that has not yet caused harm. You are responsible for the safety culture. What does tolerating this most likely create?

- A. A more efficient, acceptable workflow
- B. A dangerous norm that can lead to injury
- C. An improvement worth formally adopting
- D. A neutral practice with no real consequence

82. You determine a fire was caused by a lightning strike with no human involvement, and you document the basis objectively. How should you classify the cause?

- A. Incendiary
- B. Accidental
- C. Natural
- D. Undetermined

83. A member raises a safety concern that would delay an operation. You recognize the concern is legitimate. What does taking it seriously build over time?

- A. A culture of unsafe shortcuts
- B. Dependence on a single safety officer
- C. A strong, trusting safety culture
- D. A reason to skip future operations

84. You disagree with a newly issued department policy you are required to enforce. What is the appropriate way to handle your disagreement?

- A. Follow it while advocating for change through proper channels
- B. Quietly apply your own preferred alternative
- C. Instruct the crew to disregard the policy
- D. Criticize the policy openly to the public

85. During an incident, you must decide whether to commit crews to a high-risk interior operation. You remember that life safety includes both occupants and responders. Whose safety must your decision protect?

- A. Only the building's occupants
- B. Only the property owner
- C. Both occupants and responders
- D. Only the responding firefighters

86. A junior firefighter shows growing competence and confidence on routine tasks. Applying situational leadership, how should your supervision evolve over time?

- A. Increase close, step-by-step oversight again
- B. Revert to strictly autocratic direction
- C. Withdraw all support and guidance abruptly
- D. Move toward delegating with greater autonomy

87. You recognize that means of egress is among the most critical life safety concerns in an occupancy. During inspection, what should you give particular attention to?

- A. That exits are adequate, unobstructed, and properly marked
- B. The color of the interior walls
- C. The brand of fire extinguishers present
- D. The age of the building's roof covering

88. A member of the public forms an impression of your department based on a brief interaction with your crew at a grocery store while on duty. What does this illustrate?

- A. That image is built only through official press releases
- B. That every member is effectively a public relations representative
- C. That off-duty conduct never affects the department
- D. That image depends only on apparatus age

89. You plan a critical radio message before keying the microphone and transmit it concisely. A trainee asks why you plan before transmitting. What is the best explanation?

- A. To maximize the total radio airtime used
- B. To support disciplined, clear communication under stress
- C. To eliminate the need for any acknowledgment
- D. To avoid using standard terminology

90. A fire is in its growth stage and you observe rapidly building heat with flames rolling across the ceiling. Recognizing these signs, what should you anticipate and guard against?

- A. A backdraft from sudden oxygen introduction
- B. The decay stage beginning as fuel depletes
- C. A flashover as the room reaches critical temperature
- D. The incipient stage of a new ignition

91. You are managing a small incident as the first-arriving company officer. Within ICS, what role do you most commonly fill initially, and why?

- A. Establishing and assuming initial command to prevent confusion
- B. Serving as the Finance/Administration section chief
- C. Acting as the regional dispatcher
- D. Functioning solely as a records clerk

92. A member's evaluation must be fair and accurate, so you base it on job-related standards and ongoing feedback. Why is the ongoing feedback especially important?

- A. It ensures the formal review holds no surprises
- B. It eliminates the need for any documentation
- C. It guarantees the member never makes a mistake
- D. It allows you to skip the formal review entirely

93. During overhaul at a suspicious fire, you have potential evidence but the investigator has not arrived. What is your most appropriate action?

- A. Collect and store the evidence yourself
- B. Discard it to keep the scene clear
- C. Protect it in place and preserve the chain of custody
- D. Hand it to the property owner for storage

94. You are prioritizing your shift and recognize that training and prevention are important but rarely urgent. To build long-term capability, what should you do?

- A. Always handle urgent interruptions first
- B. Defer training indefinitely in favor of urgent tasks
- C. Eliminate training to focus only on emergencies
- D. Protect deliberate time for this important, non-urgent work

95. A fire shows multiple separate points of origin and an accelerant odor. You recognize these as incendiary indicators. What is your priority?

- A. Continue overhaul to fully expose the area
- B. Release the scene to the owner quickly
- C. Secure the scene and notify a trained investigator
- D. Question bystanders to identify a suspect

96. You are explaining to a recruit how an offensive strategy is executed through tactics. Which correctly pairs a strategy with a supporting tactic?

- A. Defensive strategy executed by an interior primary search
- B. Offensive strategy executed by setting broad objectives
- C. Offensive strategy executed by advancing an interior attack line
- D. Defensive strategy executed by choosing the overall approach

97. A member of your crew with strong intrinsic motivation performs excellently. You want to reinforce it without relying solely on money. What approach costs little but is highly effective?

- A. A large capital expenditure
- B. Significant overtime pay
- C. Substantial equipment resources
- D. Sincere recognition and meaningful assignments

98. You recognize that occupational cancer and infectious disease are among the most serious long-term threats to firefighters. How should you treat decontamination and infection control?

- A. As occasional concerns relevant only after major fires
- B. As matters solely for the safety officer
- C. As relevant only during live-fire training
- D. As daily responsibilities whose benefits may appear over years

99. A first-arriving officer must develop an initial action plan from size-up so resources are deployed to control the emergency. What foundational input drives the plan?

- A. The size-up assessment of conditions and priorities
- B. The post-incident analysis findings
- C. The department's annual budget
- D. The chain of custody for evidence

100. You recognize that selectively enforcing some policies while ignoring others is damaging. A crew asks why you enforce all policies consistently. What is the best explanation?

- A. Inconsistent enforcement signals that rules are optional and creates unfairness
- B. Consistent enforcement reduces the need for documentation
- C. Selective enforcement strengthens your credibility
- D. Ignoring some policies improves crew morale long-term

Answer Key & Full Explanations

PRACTICE EXAM 6 — ANSWER KEY & FULL EXPLANATIONS

1. B — Develop and communicate an initial action plan based on your size-up. After the 360-degree walkaround completes the initial size-up, the next step is translating that assessment into an initial action plan and communicating it. Size-up drives the plan that deploys resources to control the emergency.
2. D — Document it accurately and refer it to the proper authority. When a violation is contested and exceeds the officer's authority to resolve, the proper course is accurate documentation and referral to the fire prevention division. Altering the report or dropping a valid finding would compromise safety and integrity.
3. C — Provide focused coaching on the specific skill now. Coaching targets specific near-term skill improvement, and time before the evaluation allows correction. Addressing the deficiency early develops the member and improves readiness.
4. A — Conduct a PAR to confirm all members are accounted for. An evacuation is complete only when a Personnel Accountability Report confirms everyone is out and safe. Ordering withdrawal is merely the first step; confirmation protects against members being left behind.
5. B — Express concern and refer them to the EAP. The officer's role is to recognize a problem affecting performance and connect the member to confidential resources like the EAP, not to diagnose, discipline, or publicize it. This balances support with appropriate boundaries.

6. C — Factor the hazard into your size-up and action plan. Pre-incident knowledge of stored flammable liquids should inform size-up and the action plan, supporting safer decisions. Conditions should still be verified, but the known hazard is a critical planning input.

7. B — Address the freelancing and reestablish coordination. Leaving an assigned position without informing command is freelancing, which undermines accountability and coordination. The officer must correct it and restore operations within the command structure.

8. B — Determine the accurate time from available records. Reports must be accurate, so the officer should obtain the correct time from dispatch or other records rather than estimating or omitting it. Inaccurate documentation can have legal and operational consequences.

9. A — Tailor it to older adults as a high-risk group. Older adults are a high-risk population for fire death and injury, so content should be tailored to their needs. Matching the message to a high-risk audience is where education prevents the most harm.

10. A — Gather the facts and take appropriate corrective action. Once a complaint within the officer's authority is understood, the next step is to gather facts objectively and act appropriately. Dismissing or deflecting a legitimate complaint damages the department's image.

11. C — Communicate the roof hazard to the crews immediately. NFPA 1021 requires that task assignments address safety considerations, so the officer must immediately communicate the deteriorating-roof hazard. Failing to convey known safety risks endangers the crews.

12. D — Limit disturbance, secure the scene, and notify an investigator. Multiple separate points of origin are an incendiary indicator, shifting the priority to preserving evidence and summoning an investigator. Continued overhaul or releasing the scene would destroy evidence.

13. B — Enforce the policy consistently and explain its purpose. The officer implements and enforces policy consistently while explaining its rationale, even when the crew finds it cumbersome. Selective enforcement destroys consistency and accountability.

14. B — Expand the ICS structure to maintain manageable span of control. When too many companies report directly, the officer expands the ICS structure by adding supervisory levels to restore manageable span of control. This preserves effective supervision and accountability.

15. D — Identify the underlying contributing factors. After the immediate cause, effective investigation identifies the underlying contributing factors that allowed the injury. Correcting only the surface cause leaves the real hazard in place.

16. C — Life safety, supporting a calculated-risk rescue effort. Life safety is the first priority, and a reported savable occupant with favorable conditions and adequate resources supports a calculated-risk rescue. This applies the risk management principle correctly.

17. D — Assess the full period using ongoing documentation. Relying on one impressive incident risks the recency effect; fair evaluation assesses the full period using ongoing documentation. Continuous records guard against rating distortion.

18. A — Locate the fire department connection to supplement the system. To supply water to upper floors via the standpipe, the officer locates the FDC to supplement the system. This is a key fireground and pre-planning consideration.

19. C — An immediate, organized rescue of the firefighter. A Mayday signals a firefighter in distress and receives absolute priority, triggering an immediate, organized rescue. Every officer must know how to manage one.

20. A — Correct it consistently to prevent a dangerous norm. Tolerating a bypassed safety check establishes a dangerous norm that eventually causes injury. The officer must consistently enforce safe practices regardless of the apparent time savings.

21. A — Apply the same consistent response you gave the other member. Consistency and fairness require treating a friend exactly as any other member for the same infraction. Favoritism or overcompensation both undermine trust.

22. D — The system is currently unable to control a fire. A closed control valve is a leading cause of sprinkler failure because it cuts off the water the system needs. The closure means the system cannot protect the building, regardless of the reason given.

23. B — Conduct an explicit, communicated transfer of command. Transfers of command must be explicit and communicated so everyone knows who holds command authority. Silent or delayed transfers create dangerous confusion.

24. A — Move toward delegating with greater autonomy. Under situational leadership, rising competence and confidence warrant a shift toward delegation. This develops the member while freeing the officer for higher-level supervision.

25. D — Document it and refer it to higher authority. Allegations of serious misconduct with legal implications exceed the officer's authority and must be documented and referred upward while treating the complainant courteously. Resolving such matters alone creates liability.

26. B — Recognize backdraft indicators and coordinate proper tactics. Smoke pulsing at seams, no visible flame, and oily residue are classic backdraft signs, so the officer must recognize them and coordinate proper ventilation tactics. Sudden uncoordinated entry could trigger an explosive ignition.

27. A — Defensive operations, because no savable life or property remains. A fully involved, vacant, structurally failing building offers no savable life or property, so the risk management principle directs a defensive operation. Risking nothing for what is already lost is core to fireground safety.

28. A — Pause to address the concern before proceeding. A legitimate safety concern must be taken seriously and addressed before proceeding, even at the cost of schedule. Dismissing it teaches the crew to stay silent and endangers everyone.

29. B — Request additional resources early, anticipating the need. Because additional resources take time to arrive, the officer must anticipate the need and request help early. Under-resourcing an escalating incident endangers the public and responders.

30. D — Focus on the lesson learned rather than blame. The PIA is a blame-free learning tool, so the officer focuses on the lesson rather than disciplining an admitted error. A blame-driven analysis discourages the honesty it depends on.

31. D — Ensure it is reported and managed per procedure. An infectious disease exposure must be reported and managed per department procedure for the member's health and the department's records. Ignoring it or leaving it to the member compromises both.

32. B — An acknowledgment and repeat-back from the receiving crew. Requiring acknowledgment and repeat-back closes the feedback loop and confirms accurate receipt under noisy conditions. An unacknowledged order may never have been received.

33. A — Protect the training time, deferring low-value interruptions. Training is important but non-urgent work that builds long-term capability, so the officer protects it from low-value interruptions. Living in reaction mode neglects the work that prevents future problems.

34. B — Establish and clearly announce command. The first-arriving officer must establish and clearly announce command to prevent dangerous confusion about who is in charge. Every incident requires a clearly identified Incident Commander.

35. D — As an indicator of fire travel toward the origin. A "V" pattern indicates the fire's direction of travel and helps locate the area of origin. Determining origin is generally the first step toward determining cause.

36. D — Act promptly through proper channels and resources. Signs of possible harm to self require immediate action through proper channels and professional resources. The officer must never ignore indicators that a member may be a danger to self.

37. B — That the system is in service and unimpaired. Beyond confirming a sprinkler system is present, the officer must verify it is in service and unimpaired, since an impaired system offers no protection. A closed valve or obstructed head renders it useless.

38. C — Build trust through consistent, fair enforcement. The reliable path between the "buddy" and "tyrant" extremes is consistent, fair enforcement that earns trust. Trust, not affection or fear, makes supervision possible.

39. C — Clearly restate the objective and confirm understanding. NFPA 1021 requires complete, clear task assignments with confirmed understanding, so the officer should restate the objective and confirm. Vague fireground assignments cause gaps and uncoordinated action.

40. B — Carrying the plan to residents and identifying local risks. The company officer implements CRR at the unit level, carrying the plan to residents and identifying local risks. Department-wide planning and budgeting occur at higher levels.

41. C — The combustible framing's contribution to spread and collapse risk. Type V wood-frame construction is combustible throughout, contributing to fire spread and collapse risk. This knowledge is a critical input to tactical and safety decisions.

42. D — Sincere, specific recognition of the achievement. Recognition is a powerful intrinsic motivator that reinforces strong performance and costs little but sincerity. Withholding feedback or relying solely on money is less effective.

43. D — Recognize that, practically, it may be treated as never occurring. Undocumented training cannot prove compliance, support certification, or provide legal protection. The officer should treat it as though it never occurred and document future sessions.

44. B — Size-up is continuous and must inform the evolving plan. Size-up continues throughout an incident as conditions change, continually informing the evolving action plan. Treating it as a one-time event leaves the officer unprepared.

45. A — Explain the hazard and the correction needed cooperatively. Inspections aim for compliance, best achieved by educating the owner and securing voluntary correction. Threatening or abandoning the inspection undermines both safety and the community relationship.

46. C — You, the officer, who retains accountability. Delegating authority and assigning responsibility never transfers accountability, which remains with the officer. Even a well-delegated task leaves the officer answerable for the outcome.

47. B — The department's expanded role and mission. The officer should articulate the department's expanded role and mission, which now extends well beyond fire suppression. Citizens frequently ask what the department does.

48. B — Privately, away from the other members. The principle of "praise in public, correct in private" directs delivering correction privately. Public correction humiliates the member and damages crew relationships.

49. C — Take a calculated risk to protect the savable life. The risk management principle permits great, calculated risk to save savable lives, and favorable conditions with adequate resources support it. A possibly trapped savable occupant justifies calculated risk.

50. A — Address the conduct, as it affects the department's image. The department's image is built from member interactions, so unprofessional public conduct must be addressed. Every member is effectively a public relations representative.

51. A — Inform your collapse-risk assessment and tactical choice. Knowledge that lightweight components fail rapidly under fire directly informs collapse-risk assessment and the tactical decision. This is a critical firefighter-safety input.

52. B — Overuse breeds resentment and fear. Coercive power, based on the ability to discipline, compels compliance but breeds resentment and fear when overused. Expert and referent power earn willing followership instead.

53. C — The water supply available for firefighting. Recording hydrant locations, flow, and static sources assesses the water supply, fundamental to firefighting capability. It is compared against estimated required fire flow in pre-planning.

54. C — Remain calm and professional regardless of demeanor. Calm professionalism protects the department's image even when a complaint is unfounded and the citizen hostile. Arguing or dismissing the citizen escalates the matter.

55. A — Mentoring. Long-term guidance of overall professional growth is mentoring, distinct from coaching's focus on specific near-term skills. Both are key officer development duties.

56. A — Advancing an interior attack line to the fire. Tactics are the specific operations executing a strategy; advancing an interior attack line executes an offensive strategy. The other options describe strategy-level decisions.

57. C — By identifying who is in distress and their assignment. The accountability system supports a rescue by identifying who is in trouble and where they were assigned. This is why continuous accountability is a cornerstone of survival.

58. D — Clearly distinguish observed facts from conclusions. Investigation documentation must objectively separate facts from conclusions and avoid speculation, because it may become legal evidence. Blending fact and opinion compromises the record.

59. D — Informal counseling or coaching to correct it. A minor, first-time error by a competent member warrants the least severe progressive response, typically counseling or coaching. The purpose is correction, not punishment.

60. B — Before arrival, drawing on available information. Size-up begins before arrival using pre-incident plans, dispatch information, and observations en route. Treating it as starting only on arrival leaves the officer unprepared.

61. C — It dangerously combines fuel and heat; require correction. The fire triangle requires fuel, oxygen, and heat; combustibles against a heat source dangerously combine two elements, so the officer should require correction. Recognizing such combinations is the basis of hazard identification.

62. D — As a legitimate matter to handle professionally per procedure. A grievance is a formal complaint that a policy or right was violated and should be handled professionally within established procedure. It is not a personal attack or grounds for discipline.

63. D — Enforce seatbelt use, as crashes are a leading preventable cause of death. Vehicle crashes are a leading and highly preventable cause of firefighter death, with unbelted riding a recurring factor. Enforcing seatbelt use is a high-impact, life-saving action.

64. B — Use it as a starting point but verify conditions on scene. An outdated pre-incident plan may mislead, so it should be a starting point with conditions verified on scene. Plans must be kept current and never relied on blindly.

65. C — Radiation across space, creating exposure-protection needs. Radiation transfers heat across space and can ignite an exposure without contact, creating the need for exposure protection. Understanding heat transfer helps anticipate fire spread.

66. C — Deny it and keep operations within the command structure. Freelancing outside the command structure destroys coordination and accountability and must be denied. All fireground action must occur within ICS.

67. A — Members cannot fairly be held to standards never communicated. Clear early expectations are the foundation of fair accountability; ambiguity makes fair enforcement impossible. People perform to the standard that is set and communicated.

68. A — Recognize the need for expert investigation and protect the scene. The Fire Officer I makes a preliminary determination but, on finding incendiary indicators, recognizes the need for a trained investigator and protects the scene. The officer does not make final arson determinations or interrogate witnesses.

69. D — A directive style providing clear, close direction. An inexperienced crew under time pressure calls for a directive style with clear, close direction. Matching style to crew experience and time available is the essence of situational leadership.

70. D — Future training, pre-plans, and procedures. The PIA translates findings into improvements in training, pre-plans, and procedures. This closes the loop between operations and organizational learning.

71. A — Occupational cancer from absorbed carcinogens. Decontamination reduces the carcinogens absorbed during fires, addressing the elevated cancer rates documented among firefighters. This is among the most serious long-term threats of the profession.

72. B — Communicate the transfer explicitly to those on scene. Transfers of command must be explicit and communicated so everyone knows who holds command authority. Silent or delayed transfers create dangerous confusion.

73. B — Provide a few clear, actionable messages. Effective public education delivers a small number of clear, actionable messages rather than overwhelming the audience. Telling people specifically what to do changes behavior.

74. D — Unity of command; ensure one supervisor per member. Reporting to two supervisors with conflicting orders violates unity of command, which must be restored so each member takes direction from one supervisor. This prevents conflicting instructions.

75. D — Address it as a critical egress hazard requiring correction. A chained exit during business hours blocks the means of egress, among the most critical life safety concerns, and requires correction. Security concerns do not justify obstructing required egress.

76. A — A failure to provide ongoing feedback beforehand. A surprise at the formal review indicates the officer failed to provide continuous feedback. Feedback must be ongoing, with the review summarizing what was already communicated.

77. C — A gap in clear assignment or coordination. Duplicated effort signals a gap in clear assignment or coordination, since effective deployment coordinates crews to work together. Clear, complete assignments prevent duplication and gaps.

78. B — Deliver public recognition of the accomplishment. The principle of "praise in public, correct in private" directs recognizing strong work publicly. Public praise reinforces desired behavior and motivates the crew.

79. C — It supports a fair assessment of the full period. Continuous documentation of a gradual change supports a fair, accurate evaluation of the entire period. It guards against rating errors like the recency effect.

80. D — Size-up, continuing until the incident is over. The rapid, ongoing evaluation of construction, occupancy, life safety, conditions, resources, and hazards is size-up, which continues until the incident is over. It begins before arrival and never truly ends until resolution.

81. B — A dangerous norm that can lead to injury. Tolerating an unsafe shortcut establishes a dangerous norm that eventually causes injury. The unsafe act overlooked today becomes accepted practice tomorrow.

82. C — Natural. A fire caused by a lightning strike with no human involvement is classified as natural. This is distinct from accidental, incendiary, and undetermined.

83. C — A strong, trusting safety culture. Taking safety concerns seriously builds a strong, trusting safety culture where members look out for one another. Dismissing concerns teaches silence and endangers everyone.

84. A — Follow it while advocating for change through proper channels. When disagreeing with a policy, the officer follows it while pursuing change appropriately, never selectively ignoring it. Selective enforcement destroys consistency and accountability.

85. C — Both occupants and responders. Life safety in size-up and the action plan includes both occupants and responders. Protecting firefighters is as much a part of life safety as protecting the public.

86. D — Move toward delegating with greater autonomy. Under situational leadership, rising competence and confidence warrant a shift toward delegation. This develops the member while freeing the officer for higher-level supervision.

87. A — That exits are adequate, unobstructed, and properly marked. Means of egress is among the most critical life safety concerns, so the officer gives particular attention to adequate, unobstructed, properly marked exits. Obstructed egress has caused many of history's deadliest fires.

88. B — That every member is effectively a public relations representative. An impression formed from a brief on-duty interaction illustrates that every member is a public relations representative. Each interaction shapes community perception.

89. B — To support disciplined, clear communication under stress. Planning a message before keying the microphone supports disciplined, clear communication under stress. This conserves the channel and reduces miscommunication.

90. C — A flashover as the room reaches critical temperature. Rapidly building heat and flames rolling across the ceiling (rollover) warn of impending flashover. Recognizing these signs is a critical fireground safety responsibility.

91. A — Establishing and assuming initial command to prevent confusion. At a small incident, the first-arriving company officer commonly establishes and assumes initial command to prevent confusion. The officer must know how to establish and function within command.

92. A — It ensures the formal review holds no surprises. Continuous feedback means the formal evaluation simply summarizes what has already been communicated, holding no surprises. A surprise indicates a failure of ongoing supervision.

93. C — Protect it in place and preserve the chain of custody. Until a trained investigator arrives, the officer should protect potential evidence in place and preserve the chain of custody rather than handling it. A broken chain can render evidence inadmissible.

94. D — Protect deliberate time for this important, non-urgent work. Training and prevention are important but rarely urgent, and the officer must protect deliberate time for them. This builds long-term capability rather than reacting to interruptions.

95. C — Secure the scene and notify a trained investigator. Multiple origins and accelerant odor are incendiary indicators, shifting the priority to securing the scene and summoning an investigator. Continued overhaul or releasing the scene destroys evidence.

96. C — Offensive strategy executed by advancing an interior attack line. An offensive strategy is correctly executed through the tactic of advancing an interior attack line. Strategy is the broad approach; tactics are the specific operations.

97. D — Sincere recognition and meaningful assignments. Recognition and meaningful assignments are powerful intrinsic motivators that cost little but attention and sincerity. They often motivate more than money or large expenditures.

98. D — As daily responsibilities whose benefits may appear over years. Decontamination and infection control are daily responsibilities protecting against occupational cancer and disease, threats whose benefits may not appear for years. They are no less life-saving for being long-term.

99. A — The size-up assessment of conditions and priorities. The initial action plan is developed from size-up, which assesses conditions and priorities. Size-up is the foundation that drives resource deployment to control the emergency.

100. A — Inconsistent enforcement signals that rules are optional and creates unfairness. Selective enforcement signals that rules are optional, undermines credibility, and creates unfairness. Policies must be applied consistently to retain their authority.