



Fire Services Examinations Board
Qualifying Examination for Promotion to the Rank of
Leading Firefighter



Paper 1: Operations

LF1-1

Tuesday 13 September 2005
0920 hours – 1100 hours (1 hour 40 minutes)

Attempt ALL EIGHT questions.
ALL questions carry equal marks.

SECTION A FIRE APPLIANCES, EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS

Attempt BOTH questions

- 1 You are the officer-in-charge of a fire incident involving a fairly large commercial marine craft moored alongside a quay and you decide to send an informative message to fire control.
- (a) Define an informative message. (2 Marks)
- and**
- (b) What information would you include in your informative message from this incident? (8 marks)
- 2 You are the officer-in-charge of a fire incident and decide to mount an attack by applying firefighting foam.
- What factors will greatly influence the effective use of firefighting foam? (10 marks)

SECTION B OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND INCIDENT COMMAND

Attempt BOTH questions

- 3 The Incident Commander is concerned about the stability of a building involved in fire and has appointed you to be responsible for monitoring one side of the building for signs of collapse.
- What are the principal signs of collapse of a building to which you would be alert? (10 marks)
- 4 In order to discharge their role as team leaders at incidents, officers acting as Crew Managers need to fully understand the Fire and Rescue Service incident command system.
- In this context, describe and explain the purpose of the:
- (a) Inner cordon. (6 marks)
- and**
- (b) Rendezvous point. (4 marks)

SECTION C FIREFIGHTING AND RESCUE INCIDENTS

Attempt BOTH questions

- 5 You are the officer-in-charge of a road traffic accident involving a road tanker. Before being transported to hospital, the driver of the vehicle tells you that a 'Tremcard' is available in the vehicle cab.
- (a) What is a 'Tremcard'? (2 marks)
- and**
- (b) What information does the 'Tremcard' provide? (8 Marks)
- 6 You attend as the officer-in-charge to a fire at a large refuse tip.
Identify the hazards at the site which could provide hidden dangers to firefighters.
(10 marks)

SECTION D SCIENCE AND FIREFIGHTING

Attempt BOTH questions

- 7 You arrive with your appliance and crew at a building which is rapidly filling with smoke and decide to apply tactical ventilation.
Identify the significant beneficial effects which, if properly used, tactical ventilation can provide to trapped occupants, firefighters and the building. (10 marks)
- 8 You arrive at an incident as the officer-in-charge and identify the possibility of a backdraught.
List the signs and symptoms that suggest the possibility of a backdraught.
(10 marks)

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Paper 2: Fire Safety, Education and Enforcement

LF1-2

Tuesday 13 September 2005
1150 hours – 1240 hours (50 minutes)

Attempt ALL FOUR questions.
ALL questions carry equal marks.

SECTION A COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY

Attempt ALL questions

- 1 A local resident visits the fire station to seek advice on the safety precautions to be taken when changing the cylinder on a portable liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) heater recently purchased to heat the home.
- (a) What advice would you provide on how to change the cylinder safely?
(6 marks)
- and**
- (b) What advice would you give about safety checks that should be carried out at this time?
(4 marks)
- 2 While giving a community fire safety talk to the residents of a multi-storey block of flats, the residents express concern that due to the layout of their flats, if a fire was to occur, they may be unable to escape and be trapped in their bedrooms.
- What advice would you give to the residents should they discover that their escape route cannot be used?
(10 marks)
- 3 A member of the local community has called at the fire station to seek advice about the precautions they can take to reduce the risk of fire from smoking materials.
- They inform you that an elderly relative, who is a heavy smoker has just moved to their family home, which includes two young children.
- State the advice you would give.
(10 marks)
- 4 Due to an increased number of unwanted Automatic Fire Alarm calls from industrial and commercial premises in your station area, you have decided to suggest to your Station Manager some positive actions that could be undertaken by the Fire and Rescue Service and the officer-in-charge who attends such calls to identify problem areas and help reduce the number of unwanted calls received.
- What positive actions do you believe could be undertaken to assist in reducing the number of these calls?
(10 marks)



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Paper 3: Human Resource Management

LF1-3

Tuesday 13 September 2005
1345 hours – 1510 hours (1 hour 25 minutes)

Attempt ALL SIX questions.
ALL questions carry equal marks.

SECTION A EMPLOYMENT

Attempt BOTH questions

- 1 A contract of employment is an agreement between the employer and the employee and is legally binding on both parties.

Provide examples of what should be included in a written contract of employment.

(10 marks)

- 2 As part of the routine station life and in the day-to-day relationships between managers and their staff, the observance of discipline is important as a basis for a well run and competent fire station. The onus of example rests with managers.

In handling personnel, what qualities should be exercised to inspire rather than coerce discipline and greatly benefit the proficiency and morale of the station personnel?

(10 marks)

SECTION B TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Attempt BOTH questions

- 3 The functional approach to leadership is widely accepted as being relevant to the Fire and Rescue Service. In this style of leadership, it is necessary to understand the relationship and importance of three areas of need. These are:

Task Need;
Group need; and
Individual need.

What are the functions that the Crew Manager, as a leader, must be involved with in order to satisfy the needs of individuals?

(10 marks)

- 4 One of the general duties imposed on employers by the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations is the obligation to provide training to enable employees to undertake their job role safely.

At what stages in a firefighter's career should the employer provide them with such training?

(10 marks)

SECTION C HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

Attempt BOTH questions

- 5 Following a recent review of accident statistics, concern has been expressed by your Station Manager at the increase in the number of manual handling accidents. You have been tasked to consider and determine appropriate solutions to resolve this problem.
- (a) List examples of ways in which manual handling accidents could be reduced at little or no cost. **(8 marks)**
- and**
- (b) Some lifting and handling operations may justify a mechanical solution. Identify TWO mechanical aids that could be used for many activities. **(2 marks)**
- 6 Your Station Manager advises you that your watch appears to have a lack of awareness of the COSHH Regulations and the assessment criteria that needs to be made to determine if there is justification for the brigade to inspect premises. You are asked to explain these.
- (a) State the full title of the abbreviation 'COSHH'. **(2 marks)**
- and**
- (b) List the factors you would consider when assessing if premises justify an inspection being made under the COSHH Regulations. **(8 marks)**

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Paper 4: Business Administration – Key Skills

LF1-4

Tuesday 13 September 2005
1615 hours – 1725 hours (1 hour 10 minutes)

Attempt BOTH questions.
ALL questions carry equal marks.

Please DO NOT use your name in any of the answers.

Attempt BOTH questions

- 1 Whilst acting in the role of Crew Manager in the Training Department, you have been asked to prepare a précis of the following text for inclusion in a training document. Your précis should consist of between 120 and 140 words. You must state the number of words used at the end of your script.

'The main benefit of risk assessment is the protection of the workforce. The implementation of appropriate controls following risk assessment will lead to a reduction in the number of accidents. Obviously there is also the benefit of legal compliance. Failure to carry out a risk assessment can result in enforcement action, and the HSE has already issued several improvement notices for failure to carry out a risk assessment. In addition, in the event of any civil claim, the organisation's risk assessment would form an important part of its defence. Tied in with this are the economic benefits to be gained from a reduction in the costs associated with accidents and loss in general, such as insurance premiums, fines, cover for absent employees, etc.

Risk assessments also enable organisational resources to be directed to where they are most needed. Most risk assessment systems include prioritisation, enabling resources to be directed at the high risks first. Rolling programmes can be established to meet targets. These allow resources in time, money and trouble to be phased in over a period of time. Risk assessment can also assist in making valid management decisions. The results can be used to highlight areas where risk could be reduced, and may also be used to assist in determining whether particular risk reduction measures would be cost-effective.

In general terms, risk assessment can help in improving an organisation's safety culture. A great deal can be learned from the risk assessment process. The systematic approach may identify hazards and risks that were previously unknown, or the process could highlight deficiencies in management systems, for example failure to adhere to written working procedures. The involvement of personnel at all levels in the risk assessment process will help get the message across that health and safety is an integral part of all work activities and thus reinforce its importance throughout the organisation.'

(311 words)

(25 marks)

- 2 You are Crew Manager Fairbank on Red Watch at Longham Fire Station in Wessex Fire and Rescue Service. Your Station Manager has called you into the office and shown you the following letter:

18 Apple Tree Lane
Brompton
Wessex

6 September 2005

Dear Sir

I have always had a high regard for the Fire Service, but I must complain most strongly about the actions of some of your firefighters.

When I returned home yesterday afternoon I found two very deep tyre furrows which had caused the most appalling damage to my newly seeded grass verge along the front of my house. My neighbour, Mr Johnson, later told me that a fire engine (No. NJ04 DPT) had arrived with lights blazing yesterday morning and after a brief stop outside my house had gone to the hotel just down the road.

Mr Johnson went to the hotel (where he could see no fire) and within 20 minutes the fire engine roared off again with no apology or any attempt to deal with the damage.

I am disgusted and my insurance company will be contacting you forthwith.

Yours faithfully

E Brady (Mrs)

As you were the officer-in-charge of the appliance, you point out to the Station Manager the following information:

1. The call was to an elderly lady with a heart condition who had her arm trapped in the lift doors.
2. Apple Tree Lane is an extremely quiet, narrow road with no footpath and houses set well back. There is insufficient room for overtaking.
3. As the appliance approached the incident, a parked car was partially blocking the lane. The vehicle was locked and there was no driver to be found. In view of the seriousness of the incident, you instructed the driver to proceed, which necessitated driving partly on the grass verge.
4. At the time you were aware that the appliance had sunk into the grass verge and that you intended to return to inspect the damage.

Question 2 Cont'd

On putting back the 'Stop' message you were ordered to another incident and did not return to the station until after the end of the shift.

The Station Manager informs you that the matter will need to be referred to the Fire & Rescue Service's insurers and asks you to draft a letter in reply to Mrs Brady for the Group Manager's signature.

Your letter should be no more than 250 words in length.

You are to state the number of words used at the end of your script.

(25 marks)