

Surprise Fire-Medical Department Paramedic/EMT Orientation Guide



***Reading Ability, Mathematical Reasoning, Map Reading,
Writing Ability, and Human Relations***

Provided by Fire & Police Selection, Inc. (FPSI)—2018

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Overview

The written test associated with this orientation guide for the Surprise Fire-Medical Department Paramedic/EMT recruitment process consists of a variety of sub-tests designed to measure critical constructs required for successful job performance. The components of this test have been developed and validated by subject matter experts (SMEs) who have experience performing essential functions of the job.

Constructs measured by the Paramedic/EMT Test include:

- Reading Ability—**20 items**
- Mathematical Reasoning—**20 items**
- Map Reading—**20 items**
- Writing Ability—**20 items**
- Human Relations—**40 items** (to include: interpersonal skills, teamwork, commitment, honesty, integrity, emotional stability)

SMEs in our validation workshops have endorsed every item on the test and have confirmed that the reading level of the passages and the test items are appropriate based upon the materials found on the job and in the recruitment program.

How to Prepare for the Test

All of the constructs measured on the test are based upon basic skills and abilities that a minimally qualified applicant should possess. There are a variety of preparatory publications available that *may* be helpful to those candidates who could use a refresher in basic reading, math skills, map reading, writing ability, and human relations. FPSI **cannot** endorse any particular national publication in terms of preparing for the Paramedic/EMT test that was not created by FPSI.

Test Yourself for Success with FPSI's Practice Test Items

Listed in the back of this practice test are sample questions from the five constructs being measured on the written test. These sample test items are very similar to the types of items found on the actual written test.

Prepare for Your Test Day

One way to help alleviate any apprehension you might have about the test is to visit the site, if possible, where the test will be administered. This will allow you to become familiar with the setting and the location of the testing. Obtain directions to the test site and determine the parking situation prior to the day of the test.

If you do visit the testing site in advance, be aware that on the day of the test administration your movements to certain areas of the building where the test is being held might be restricted. Do not make absolute plans on where you want to sit or which restroom you wish to use. Just familiarize yourself with the location and the facilities. You will be instructed on the test day of any limitations on your movements during the test session.

Carefully read all of the instructions and directions you receive from the agency conducting the test and follow them. Failure to follow the instructions may affect your score or even eliminate you from the testing process.

The Day of the Test

Arrive early on the day of the test. Applicants who are late are often denied permission to take the test. Be sure to bring all materials and/or information that the testing agency requested you to bring. For example, many testing agencies require that you bring some form of government issued photo identification such as a driver's license or a state identification card. Failure to bring required materials might result in your NOT being able to take the test. Wear comfortable clothing in layers so you can remove layers if the room becomes too warm or add layers if there is air conditioning or a cold draft. This strategy will help you to be comfortable throughout the exam. You can also use your sweater or jacket to cushion your seat in the test room if it is too hard or uncomfortable. Even though you should dress comfortably, you should also keep in mind that this test is part of the overall selection process. Check with the agency that is administering this test to see if there are any dress requirements.

When you are given the test instructions on the test day, you will be informed how much time you have to answer the questions. Take your watch off and put it on the table in front of you where you can see it. This will help you to keep track of your time and progress. You should be supplied with all materials you need to respond on the test, including test answer forms, scratch paper, and pencils. Leave all of your test preparation materials or notes outside of the testing area. **You may NOT refer to any other study materials during the test.**

Once you begin to take the test, make sure you clearly mark your answers to each corresponding question. If you skip any questions during the test, make sure you continue to put your answers next to the correct answer number on the answer sheet. It is easy to put answers next to the wrong question number on the answer sheet if you do not pay close attention. When you have reached the end of the test, make certain to go back and check that you have answered ALL of the questions.

During the test, you will be instructed to choose the "best" or "most correct" alternative from four different alternatives. Most applicants find it helpful to read the entire question and all of the alternatives before choosing the best or most correct alternative. It is better to read all of the alternatives as you may find one that is a better answer than the one you first thought was correct.

If you have time after you have answered all of the questions, go back and review your answers. You may have recalled something later that may help you to correctly answer earlier questions.

DO NOT LEAVE ANY ANSWERS BLANK. You are scored on the number of correct answers you give in response to the questions. In other words, you will be penalized for any answers left blank. Even if you are not certain of a correct answer, you **SHOULD GUESS** at what the correct answer might be. Try to eliminate alternatives that you know are wrong and guess from the ones that remain. This will increase your chances of guessing the correct answer. Answers left blank will NOT be counted towards the number of correct responses in your final score.

It is important to try to make a good impression throughout the entire testing process since command level officers and administrators from the department that are administering this test sometimes visit the test site on the day of the test. Horseplay and loud joking before or after the test may create a poor impression of your ability to properly perform the job of a Paramedic/EMT. You should also remain quiet during the test unless you have permission to do otherwise from those who are administering the test.

Dealing with Anxiety

The Paramedic/EMT Test is not a measure of your self-worth or your intelligence. This is a test designed to measure your levels of reading ability, math skills, map reading skills, writing skills, and human relation competencies. If you have performed poorly on other tests in the past, that does not necessarily mean you will perform poorly on this test. Unlike many other types of tests, the Paramedic/EMT Test was designed to measure a variety of critical skills and abilities that are essential to successful job performance in a way that does not overestimate the importance of cognitive skills and other constructs which, historically, result in lower passing rates.

There are no trick questions on the Paramedic/EMT Test. Each and every question on the test can be answered based upon basic skills and abilities you should have developed throughout your life.

We certainly wish you the best of luck with your endeavors to become a Paramedic/EMT for the Surprise Fire-Medical Department!

Sample Practice Test Items

Reading Section

For this section of the test, you will read a passage and will then answer five (5) multiple-choice questions for the passage. All of the answers for these questions are found in the corresponding reading passage. You are encouraged to read the passage first and then answer the questions. You are allowed to refer back to the passage if needed.

Proceed to the next section when you are finished.

FROSTBITE Questions 1 – 5

General Points

Hypothermia and other life threatening conditions may be present in a patient with frostbite, and must be evaluated and treated immediately. When caring for a patient in extremely cold temperatures, take care to prevent hypothermia tissues from becoming frostbitten and already frostbitten tissues from becoming worse. If transporting a patient with frostbite who will not be rewarmed in the field, personnel should protect the frostbitten parts from additional injury and temperature changes.

Superficial frostbite affects the dermis and shallow subcutaneous layers of the skin and is recognized by white or gray colored patches. The affected skin feels firm, but not hard. The skin initially turns red and once frostbitten, is not painful. No tissue loss will occur when treated properly.

Deep frostbite affects the dermal and subdermal layers and may involve an entire digit or body part. The skin feels hard and cold and the affected tissue is white or gray. A pulse cannot be felt in the deeply frostbitten tissue and skin will not rebound when pressed. Large blisters on the frostbitten area indicate that deep frostbite has partially thawed. Treatment of deep frostbite is usually extremely painful and best accomplished in a medical facility. If personnel does not have the capability to rewarm the tissues properly, or cannot prevent refreezing, the patient should be transported to a medical facility rather than the personnel attempt to rewarm the patient in the field. Whenever possible, guidance in rewarming should be provided by the emergency department physician. In most circumstances, the risks posed by improper rewarming or refreezing outweigh the risks of delaying treatment for deep frostbite.

Tissue which is thawed and then refreezes almost always dies. Consequently, the decision to thaw the frostbitten tissue in the field commits personnel to a course of action which may involve pain control, maintaining warm water baths at a constant temperature, and protecting the tissue from further injury during the rewarming and transport. It is reasonable to consider rewarming the frostbitten tissue in a controlled manner if uncontrolled, spontaneous rewarming is likely to occur during prolonged evacuation or transport. Do not rub any frozen parts, allow the patient to have alcohol or tobacco, apply ice or snow, attempt to thaw the frostbitten part with high temperature such as those generated by stoves or exhaust, or break blisters which may form.

Evaluation and treatment

Assess and treat for hypothermia by obtaining patient history, vital signs, and body temperature. Assess frostbitten area carefully since the loss of sensation may cause the patient to be unaware of soft tissue injury in that area. Remove jewelry and clothing from the affected area, if possible.

Determine whether rewarming can be accomplished in a medical facility. If so, transport the patient while protecting the tissue from further injury. If the decision is made to rewarm in the field, prepare a water bath approximately 100 to 106 degrees Fahrenheit, in a container large enough to accommodate the frostbitten tissues without the patient touching the sides or bottom of the container. A source of additional water must be available and maintained at 100 to 106 degrees Fahrenheit, and gently circulated around the tissues until the distal tip of the frostbitten area becomes flushed.

While shock due to frostbite is very uncommon, personnel should perform a thorough exam for additional injuries if the frostbitten patient goes into shock. Pain after rewarming usually indicates that the tissue has been successfully rewarmed. After rewarming, let the frostbitten tissues dry in warm air, do not towel dry. Tissues that were deeply frostbitten may develop blisters once thawed. Blisters should not be broken and must be protected from further injury. Pad between affected digits and bandage affected tissues loosely with soft, sterile dressings. Rewarmed extremities should be kept at a level above the heart, if possible. Protect the rewarmed area from refreezing and other trauma during transport. A frame around the frostbitten area should be constructed to prevent blankets from pressing directly on the injured area. Do not allow an individual who has frostbitten feet to walk except when the life of the patient or rescuer is in danger.

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1. Superficial frostbite affects the dermis and shallow subcutaneous layers of the skin and is recognized by _____ colored patches.
 - A. white or red
 - B. white or gray
 - C. gray or red
 - D. gray or brown

 2. _____ blisters on the frostbitten area indicate that deep frostbite has partially thawed.
 - A. Large
 - B. Medium
 - C. Small
 - D. Red

 3. Which of the following statements is most accurate about the treatment of deep frostbite?
 - A. Treating a patient with deep frostbite is usually not painful.
 - B. In most circumstances, the risks of delaying treatment for deep frostbite outweigh the risks posed by improper rewarming or refreezing.
 - C. Tissue which is thawed and then refreezes almost always dies.
 - D. EMS personnel should immediately break any blisters, which may form on the patient.

 4. Assessing and treating hypothermia includes all of the following EXCEPT:
 - A. patient history
 - B. vital signs
 - C. body temperature
 - D. pupil dilation

 5. If the decision to rewarm the patient in the field is made, personnel should prepare a water bath approximately _____ degrees Fahrenheit.
 - A. 88-94
 - B. 94-100
 - C. 100-106
 - D. 106-112

Math Section

For this section of the test, you will answer five (5) math related questions. These math questions require basic mathematic calculations and you will not need a calculator. Calculators are not allowed for this test. You may not use any scratch paper for this test. **YOU ARE FREE TO WRITE IN THIS TEST BOOKLET TO MAKE YOUR CALCULATIONS.**

Proceed to the next section after you are finished.

6. If a firefighter determines that 350 feet of hose is needed to reach a particular building and the hoses are 60 feet in length, what is the minimum number of lengths of hose needed?
 - A. 3
 - B. 4
 - C. 5
 - D. 6

7. Office sprinkler heads spray water at an average of 25 gallons per minutes (GPM). If four (4) sprinkler heads are flowing at the same time and at the same rate, how many total gallons of water will be released in 15 minutes?
 - A. 100
 - B. 315
 - C. 375
 - D. 1,500

8. What is the total weight of four paramedics who weigh 202 pounds, 186 pounds, 133 pounds and 211 pounds?
 - A. 682
 - B. 712
 - C. 732
 - D. 742

9. An adult victim has one-quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of his back burned, all of his arm burned, and half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of his head burned. Using the burn chart below, determine what percent (total) of the victim is burned.

Entire Back: 20%
Entire Front: 20%
Entire Head: 15%
Entire Arm: 15%

What percent of the victim is burned?

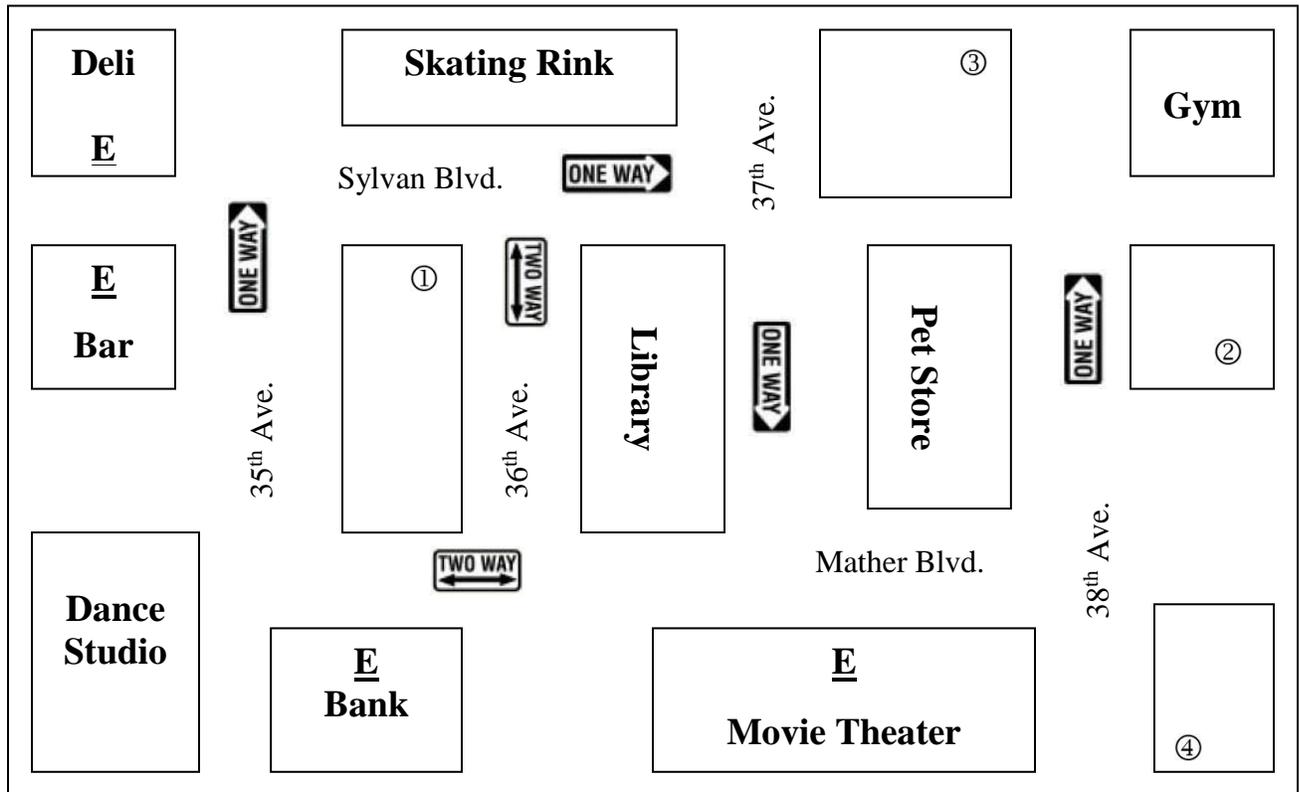
- A. 25.5%
B. 27.5%
C. 30.5%
D. 35.5%
10. You are ordered to carry boxes to the dispatch station. Because you injured your back, your doctor told you that you should NOT carry more than 27 pounds at one time. What box, or combination of boxes, will allow you to carry the most weight in one trip without disobeying your doctor's orders?
- A. 1 box weighing 21 pounds
B. 2 boxes, one weighing 9 pounds and 1 weighing 19 pounds
C. 2 boxes, each weighing 15 pounds
D. 3 boxes, each weighing 6 pounds

Map Reading Section

For this section of the test, you will answer five (5) job-related map reading ability questions.

Proceed to the next section after you are finished.

DIRECTIONS: Use the following map to answer questions 11-15



11. You are facing South on 37th Ave. and turn West on Mather Blvd. The next one way street you will reach is _____.
- A. 38th Ave.
 - B. 36th Ave.
 - C. 35th Ave.
 - D. Sylvan Blvd.

12. Which direction does Corner 4 face?
- A. Southeast
 - B. Southwest
 - C. Northeast
 - D. Northwest
13. Which intersection is Corner 1 located at?
- A. 35th Ave. and Mather Blvd.
 - B. 36th Ave. and Sylvan Blvd.
 - C. 35th Ave. and Sylvan Blvd.
 - D. 36th Ave. and Mather Blvd.
14. What is the most direct route to take from the entrance of the Deli to the entrance of the Bank without violating traffic laws? *NOTE: The entrance is indicated by E.
- A. Go east on Sylvan Blvd., South on 35th Ave., and east on Mather Blvd.
 - B. Go east on Sylvan Blvd., South on 37th Ave., and west on Mather Blvd.
 - C. Go east on Sylvan Blvd., South on 36th Ave., and east on Mather Blvd.
 - D. Go east on Sylvan Blvd., South on 36th Ave., and west on Mather Blvd.
15. What is the most direct route to take from Corner 4 to Corner 1 without violating traffic laws? *NOTE: The entrance is indicated by E.
- A. Go north on 38th Ave. and west on Sylvan Blvd.
 - B. Go north on 38th Ave., west on Mather Blvd., and north on 36th Ave.
 - C. Go north on 38th Ave., west on Mather Blvd., North on 35th Ave., and east on Sylvan Blvd.
 - D. Go north on 38th Ave., west on Mather Blvd., north on 37th Ave., and west on Sylvan Blvd.

Writing Ability Section

For this section of the test, you will answer five writing ability (5) items.

Proceed to the next section after you are finished.

For items 16-17, choose the pair of words that **best** completes the sentence.

16. Determine _____ or not a crime has in fact been _____ and, if so, what type of crime.
- A. “if” and “committed”
 - B. “if” and “completed”
 - C. “whether” and “committed”
 - D. “weather” and “committed”
17. Be _____ of obvious things and _____ of persons quick to produce identification or alibis.
- A. “caution” and “weary”
 - B. “cautious” and “wary”
 - C. “aware” and “skeptacle”
 - D. “cautious” and “skepticle”
18. Considering grammar, spelling, and punctuation as well as ease of understanding, which of the following sentences is most acceptable?
- A. Employee reporting to work must enter the time on their time card.
 - B. Employees reporting to work must enter the time on their time card.
 - C. Employees reporting to work must enter the time on there time card.
 - D. Employee’s reporting, to work must enter the time on their time card.
19. Identify the type of error that is found in the following sentence:
- Problems that don’t have an obvious answer should be referred to an employees supervisor.**
- A. Spelling
 - B. Grammar
 - C. Punctuation
 - D. There is no error

For item 20, choose the word that is synonymous (means the **same thing**) as the **underlined** word in the sentence.

20. The paramedic had a(n) eclectic set of friends.
- A. assorted
 - B. limited
 - C. narrow
 - D. restricted

Human Relations Section

For this section of the test, you will read one short human relation situation and will then answer two multiple-choice questions relating to that situation. You will be asked to identify both the “most appropriate” response and the “least appropriate” response.

For example:

You are transporting an injured and intoxicated male who has a large amount of money protruding from his pockets. While transporting him to the emergency room you notice that the money falls out of his pocket.

- A. Pretend you didn't see the man drop the money.
- B. Wait until you go back outside and take the money if nobody else has found it.
- C. Pick up the money and give it to the emergency room staff for safekeeping.
- D. Pick up the money and place it next to the victim's hand.

1. WHAT IS THE **MOST** APPROPRIATE RESPONSE? **C**
2. WHAT IS THE **LEAST** APPROPRIATE RESPONSE? **B**

You are allowed to review your responses to any test section with any remaining time.

John is a new Paramedic/EMT at dispatch where there is a food fund. This fund is used to pay for lunch and dinner for the crew. At the beginning of the shift, \$6.00 is paid into the fund and a “check mark” is placed next to each crew member’s name. By eating meals together, teamwork is built. John forgets to bring his \$6.00 for the shift. What is the best way for John to handle this situation?

- A. John should leave dispatch quickly and run to the nearest bank.
- B. John should place a check mark on the chart and pay for his food later.
- C. John should not eat with the rest of the group since he couldn’t pay the \$6.00.
- D. John should ask another crew member if he could borrow \$6.00 for the day.

21. WHAT IS THE **MOST** APPROPRIATE RESPONSE?

22. WHAT IS THE **LEAST** APPROPRIATE RESPONSE?

Zack is a new paramedic and feels left out when the other paramedics talk in the field. He feels that the other paramedics ignore him on purpose and treat him as if he’s not part of the team. What is the best way for Zack to handle this situation?

- A. Zack should take interest in the conversations and spend time getting to know the other paramedics.
- B. Zack should tell his supervisor that the other paramedics are ignoring him.
- C. Zack should ignore the other paramedics and allow time to pass before doing anything.
- D. Zack should confront the other paramedics and ask why they are ignoring him.

23. WHAT IS THE **MOST** APPROPRIATE RESPONSE?

24. WHAT IS THE **LEAST** APPROPRIATE RESPONSE?

Cade finished the Paramedic/EMT program at the top of his class and acted arrogant about his accomplishment. After receiving his dispatch assignment, he put very little effort into his work. Cade was perceived as an arrogant know-it-all. This perception prompted his fellow paramedics to treat him as a non-team player. What is the best way for Cade to handle this situation?

- A. Cade should continue with his work and not address the issue.
- B. Cade should try to participate a little more with the other paramedics.
- C. Cade should apologize for his attitude and make an effort to learn new concepts.
- D. Cade should inform his supervisor that the other paramedics are picking on him.

25. WHAT IS THE **MOST** APPROPRIATE RESPONSE?

26. WHAT IS THE **LEAST** APPROPRIATE RESPONSE?

Your partner pulls the ambulance out of the parking garage to wash it and the back door is severely damaged because it has been left open. You see this and recall that you left the back door open. You know that your partner will be blamed for this and that it was not entirely his fault. What is the best way to handle this situation?

- A. You should tell your partner to always check the back doors before pulling the ambulance out.
- B. You should tell your partner that you left the door open and suggest that you both discuss this accident with your supervisor.
- C. You should begin working on another task and wait for your partner to discuss the accident with you.
- D. You should inform your supervisor that your partner damaged the vehicle.

27. WHAT IS THE **MOST** APPROPRIATE RESPONSE?

28. WHAT IS THE **LEAST** APPROPRIATE RESPONSE?

While on scene at an accident at a local high school, a teacher approaches you and asks if you can volunteer at the football game. The teacher has received permission from the dispatch supervisor and school principal. You agree to volunteer at the football game. After talking further, you discover that the game is on your scheduled day off. What is the best way to handle this situation?

- A. Inform the teacher that you cannot attend the game as you are not scheduled to work.
- B. Encourage the teacher to proceed without a volunteer paramedic.
- C. Attend the game considering that your entire department will be represented by your actions.
- D. Ask a fellow paramedic to attend the game in your absence.

29. WHAT IS THE **MOST** APPROPRIATE RESPONSE?

30. WHAT IS THE **LEAST** APPROPRIATE RESPONSE?

Answer Key

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. D
5. C
6. D
7. D
8. C
9. B
10. A
11. C
12. B
13. B
14. D
15. B
16. C
17. B
18. B
19. C
20. A
21. D
22. A
23. A
24. B
25. C
26. D
27. B
28. D
29. C
30. B