Sample Questions

Fire Investigator

Jan 2012

1. Which NFPA document is used by fire investigators to conduct fire investigations?
   a. NFPA 1031
   b. NFPA 921
   c. NFPA 912
   d. NFPA 1500

2. Testing the hypothesis can be accomplished by using all of the following EXCEPT:
   a. the parenthesis process.
   b. deductive reasoning.
   c. cognitive testing.
   d. lab analysis.

3. Investigative findings are initially reviewed by all of the following EXCEPT:
   a. investigator’s supervisors.
   b. legal disposition.
   c. technical review.
   d. peer review.

4. Preconceived determination or premature conclusions as to the cause or origin of the fire are considered:
   a. proactive.
   b. preemptive.
   c. expectation bias.
   d. experience bias.

5. The process of heating a solid so as to cause the material to decay and produce fire gases is known as:
   a. pyrolysis.
   b. oxidation.
   c. vaporization.
   d. combustion.

6. The lowest temperature at which a liquid produces a flammable vapor is known as the:
   a. fire point.
   b. thermal point.
   c. flash point.
   d. flame point.

7. A compartment fire that has reached full room involvement is also known as:
   a. flashover.
   b. backdraft.
   c. overburn.
   d. complete involvement.
8. The neutral plane in a compartment fire refers to the:
   a. surface area above the fuel where fire is seen.
   b. line where the flow of the hot gas and cooler air changes.
   c. space at floor level that is not involved in the burning process.
   d. transition point between rollover and flashover.

9. The observable or measurable changes in or on a material as a result of exposure to fire are known as:
   a. fire patterns.
   b. fire effects.
   c. flame patterns.
   d. exposure effects.

10. The chipping or pitting of concrete or masonry surfaces that also might include areas of different coloration is known as:
    a. charring.
    b. spalling.
    c. oxidation.
    d. calcinations.

11. Patterns produced during the _________ stage are primarily influenced by the ignition source and fuel.
    a. steady burn
    b. flashover
    c. decay
    d. ignition

12. Which type of burn pattern is often created from a short-lived fire or one that involved a fuel package of low heat release?
    a. U-shaped
    b. Circular shaped
    c. Inverted cone
    d. Hourglass

13. What percentage of the modern codes is related to fire protection?
    a. 30%
    b. 40%
    c. 50%
    d. 60%

14. Which one of the following types of construction is used in a majority of modern wood-frame construction?
    a. Balloon frame
    b. Post and frame
    c. Plank and beam
    d. Platform frame
15. The most useful measurement in working with post fire circuits is the measurement of:
   a. current.
   b. resistance.
   c. amps.
   d. ohms.

16. What is the color of conductor used in grounding equipment?
   a. Green
   b. Gray
   c. Black
   d. White

17. A storage container with the water capacity of 800 lbs (363 kg) used to store LPG is a:
   a. cylinder.
   b. tank.
   c. carboy.
   d. drum.

18. Research has shown that notification of an emergency in a building is most effective by:
   a. flashing lights.
   b. lights and horns.
   c. illuminated exits.
   d. voice or directive messages.

19. Fires set near or around homes or at educational institutions are typical of which category of youth firesetters?
   a. Child
   b. Adolescent
   c. Preadolescent
   d. Juvenile

20. Which amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects property owners from unwarranted or unlawful searches of their property?
   a. Fifth
   b. Fourth
   c. First
   d. Tenth

21. Once a fire has been classified as incendiary, the next step is to:
   a. identify the fire setter and motive.
   b. collect evidence at the scene.
   c. notify the city/county attorney.
   d. contact the police to make an arrest.
22. A wall collapsing onto a floor in a building that has been damaged by fire is considered a/an _____ load.
   a. live
   b. dead
   c. collapse
   d. impact

23. When a court has approved a bankruptcy it is recorded in the county’s:
   a. recorder’s office.
   b. clerk’s office.
   c. assessor’s office.
   d. treasurer’s office.

24. The _______ is the exact physical location where the fire started.
   a. room of origin
   b. ignition point
   c. point of origin
   d. starting point

25. Which of the following classifications of fire cause has a deficiency of data?
   a. Accidental
   b. Natural
   c. Incendiary
   d. Undetermined