

APPEAL FORM

Questions for this promotional examination were taken solely from the source material listed in the Source Material List. Information contained in any other material will not be considered in determining the correct answer to any question.

Houston Fire Department

HFD Investigator 1/7/2015

You may only appeal ONE question per form.

For Question # 64 I would like the Test Review Committee to take the following action (please check one or explain in the space provided):

- Make A the only correct answer. Other (please explain below):
 Make B the only correct answer.
 Make C the only correct answer.

Consider the following as correct answers (circle the answers you feel are correct):

A B C

- Give all applicants credit
 Remove the question from the exam.

Explanation: Please provide a detailed explanation of your appeal / rebuttal. **DO NOT WRITE THE TEST QUESTION ON THIS FORM.** Print/ Write legibly.

On the Referenced Page First Sentence under Basic Fire Patterns states:
"... normal fire growth is upward and outward. In this process, the initial patterns on the wall will have the appearance of a "V."

Which is choice C

The Satmen continues with:
"IF the fire is near a vertical surface. The "V" is created."
"Natural progression of the fire "May" create an hourglass shape. This occurs when the bottom of the pattern is created by air entrainment..."

The hourglass is the result of a Variable - air entrainment depends on a horizontal surface Above to radiate the Natural flow pattern Back down Changing to Original pattern.

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Random Test Number

1-9-2015

DATE

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Approved

Denied

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■ Note

The use of these patterns may not be as simple as it may sound.

■ Note

Under most circumstances, normal fire growth is upward and outward.

■ Note

Because of direct fire impingement, radiant heat, and other factors a fire will also burn downward but at a much slower rate.

■ Note

This brings us to one of the tools every investigator needs: common sense.

Not to complicate things, but to put this in perspective, the use of these patterns may not be as simple as it may sound. The fire could start in an area of limited combustible materials. As the fire grows and moves from one room to the next it may encounter materials that are capable of great heat release. That same material may also produce high volumes of smoke and soot, creating a more devastating-appearing image than in the room of origin. Then, take into account that the fire breaches a window, which may then allow air currents to enter the structure and change the direction of fire travel, creating deeper char as the fresh air feeds the fire.

The ultimate goal of examining the patterns is to find the least damaged area. The investigator then works toward the most damaged area, which may lead to the area of origin. The investigator must take into account, and eliminate, any patterns created by ventilation of a larger fuel load in the path of the fire.

BASIC FIRE PATTERNS

Under most circumstances, normal fire growth is upward and outward. In this process, the initial patterns on the wall will have the appearance of V. If the fire is near a vertical surface. The V is created by the flames and heat of the fire as it impacts the wall. The width of the V is dependent on the size and width of the fire that is burning, nothing more. As the fire increases in size, so will the pattern that is created. The longer the fire burns in any area, the more damage there will be in that area. Not all fire damage is directed upward and outward, however. Because of direct fire impingement, radiant heat, and other factors a fire will also burn downward but at a much slower rate. This brings us to one of the tools every investigator needs: common sense.

The question that needs to be asked is whether the patterns left behind make sense. Is this what should be expected to be seen under the current known circumstances? If something does not seem as it should, it is the investigator's duty to search until all questions can be answered. This is all part of the analytical process.

If the fuel has a low heat release rate, which creates a fire with shorter flames, the effect on the wall may be an inverted V pattern. As the fire grows in volume and intensity, this pattern may end up being masked by new patterns with the potential of obscuring any evidence of the initial inverted V.

Natural progression of the fire may create an hourglass shape. (See Figure 11-2.) This occurs when the bottom of the pattern is created by the natural shape of the flames created by air entrainment where the flames lean inward. This air is not always equal from all sides, so the fire may appear skewed to one side or the other depending on the air currents. As the fire intensifies, it releases more heat and larger flames that produce the upward and outward flow. This in turn creates an hourglass shape, which is a natural pattern shape that may be seen by the investigator.

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Fire Investigator pg. 265

A fire of normal growth is upward and outward. In this process, the intine pattern on the wall will have the appearance of a V if the fire is near a vertical surface.

A fire will leave both V and hourglass patterns by the natural progression of a fire.

So that both answers should be considered right.

Depending on when the fire is suppressed will also depend what pattern is found. Early suppression will show V pattern vs. later suppression on hourglass pattern.

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The natural progression of the fire MAY create an hourglass shape.
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Fires natural progression will also create a V shaped pattern.
This should get dual credit.

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