

Principal Fire Alarm Operator

Experience, Training and Education (ECT&E) Scoring Guide

This guide will serve as a reference for you to understand the point allocation for answers to each question on the ECT&E component of the Principal Fire Alarm Operator examination.

Please note that the information contained in this ECT&E scoring guide is applicable only to the Principal Fire Alarm Operator examination administered February 15, 2025. HRD reserves the right to change the point allocation or ECT&E categories for any future exam. All questions were scored based upon experience, education, and specialized trainings as of February 15, 2025.

Category and Maximum Allowable Points

The following chart displays the ECT&E categories and the maximum points available for each category. The available points for each category are capped at that amount. As you review the point allocation for answers to each question, you may notice that the sum of the points you can earn for a category may exceed the maximum points available for that category. Please note that you may not be given more than the maximum available points for a category, even if your total points exceed that capped amount.

Principal Fire Alarm Operator	Category	Maximum Points Available
Current Department Experience	Job Experience	70
Outside Experience		
Supervisory Time		
Specialized Trainings	Certifications and Training	20
Academic Schooling	Education	10

Please note that experience or education that is more relevant or important to the position is given a higher point value. Point values for experience are displayed to 2 decimal places.

Questions and Allocated Points

Q1: Asked candidate to select 'yes' if they have been approved as eligible to take this exam.

Q2: Asked whether the candidate understood the instructions for the Experience portion of the claim.

Q3-Q7: Job Experience

Q3: Indicate how many year(s) of permanent Fire Alarm Operator experience you have in your current department as of the date of the written exam. Round experience to the nearest year. Do not include time served after your first rank promotion.

No Experience	0
1 year	2.17
2 years	4.28

3 years	6.34
4 years	8.35
5 years	10.31
6 years	12.21
7 years	14.05
8 years	15.85
9 years	17.59
10 years	19.27
11 years	20.91
12 years	22.49
13 years	24.01
14 years	25.48
15 years	26.90
16 years	28.27
17 years	29.58
18 years	30.84
19 years	32.04
20 years	33.19
21 years	34.29
22 years	35.34
23 years	36.33
24 years	37.26
25 years	38.15
26 years	38.98
27 years	39.75
28 years	40.48
29 years	41.15
30 years	41.76
31 years	42.32
32 years	42.83
33 years	43.29
34 years	43.69
35 years	44.04
36 years	44.33
37 years	44.57
38 years	44.76
39 years	44.89
40 years	44.97

Q4: Indicate how many year(s) of permanent Senior Fire Alarm Operator experience you have in your current department as of the date of the written exam. Round to the nearest year.

No Experience	0
1 year	3.62
2 years	7.12

3 years	10.50
4 years	13.76
5 years	16.90
6 years	19.93
7 years	22.84
8 years	25.62
9 years	28.29
10 years	30.84
11 years	33.27
12 years	35.59
13 years	37.78
14 years	39.86
15 years	41.82
16 years	43.65
17 years	45.37
18 years	46.98
19 years	48.46
20 years	49.82
21 years	51.07
22 years	52.20
23 years	53.20
24 years	54.09
25 years	54.86
26 years	55.52
27 years	56.05
28 years	56.47
29 years	56.76
30 years	56.94

Q5: Indicate the amount of experience you have as an acting, provisional and/or temporary after certification Principal Fire Alarm Operator in your current department. Round experience to the nearest month.

No acting/provisional	0
1 month up to 2 months	3.50
3 months up to 4 months	5.19
5 months up to 6 months	6.88
7 months up to 8 months	8.05
9 months up to 10 months	9.21
11 months up to 12 months	10.38
13 months up to 18 months	12.07
19 months up to 24 months	13.76
25 months up to 30 months	15.39
31 months up to 36 months	17.02
37 months up to 42 months	18.59

43 months up to 48 months	20.17
49 months up to 54 months	21.68
55 months up to 60 months	23.19
61 months or more	24.64

Q6: Indicate how many year(s) of experience you have as a Dispatcher or Telecommunicator for a public safety entity, including experience as an entry-level fire alarm operator in a department other than your current department. Round experience to the nearest year.

No Experience	0
1 year	1.02
2 years	2.00
3 years	2.95
4 years	3.86
5 years	4.75
6 years	5.59
7 years	6.41
8 years	7.19
9 years	7.94
10 years	8.66
11 years	9.34
12 years	9.99
13 years	10.61
14 years	11.19
15 years	11.74
16 years	12.25
17 years	12.74
18 years	13.19
19 years	13.60
20 years	13.99
21 years	14.34
22 years	14.65
23 years	14.93
24 years	15.18
25 years	15.40
26 years	15.58
27 years	15.73
28 years	15.85
29 years	15.93
30 years	15.98

Q7: Indicate how many year(s) you have served in a supervisory rank as a Dispatcher or Telecommunicator for a public safety entity, including experience as an entry-level fire alarm operator in a department other than your current department. Round experience to the nearest year.

No Experience	0
1 year	1.90
2 years	3.75
3 years	5.53
4 years	7.24
5 years	8.90
6 years	10.49
7 years	12.02
8 years	13.49
9 years	14.89
10 years	16.23
11 years	17.51
12 years	18.73
13 years	19.89
14 years	20.98
15 years	22.01
16 years	22.98
17 years	23.88
18 years	24.72
19 years	25.50
20 years	26.22
21 years	26.88
22 years	27.47
23 years	28.00
24 years	28.47
25 years	28.88
26 years	29.22
27 years	29.50
28 years	29.72
29 years	29.88
30 years	29.97

Q8: Indicate how many years you have served as a first responder (firefighter and/or law enforcement officer) as well as an emergency medical technician (EMT). Experience as a military firefighter or law enforcement officer would be credited under this category. Round experience to the nearest year.

No Experience	0
1 year	0.44
2 years	0.87
3 years	1.29
4 years	1.69
5 years	2.08
6 years	2.45
7 years	2.80
8 years	3.15

9 years	3.47
10 years	3.79
11 years	4.09
12 years	4.37
13 years	4.64
14 years	4.89
15 years	5.14
16 years	5.36
17 years	5.57
18 years	5.77
19 years	5.95
20 years	6.12
21 years	6.27
22 years	6.41
23 years	6.53
24 years	6.64
25 years	6.74
26 years	6.82
27 years	6.88
28 years	6.93
29 years	6.97
30 years	6.99

Q9: Indicate how many year(s) of supervisory experience you have outside of the fire alarm service. This includes military, maritime service and private companies. Round experience to the nearest year.

No Experience	0
1 year	0.19
2 years	0.37
3 years	0.55
4 years	0.72
5 years	0.89
6 years	1.05
7 years	1.20
8 years	1.35
9 years	1.49
10 years	1.62
11 years	1.75
12 years	1.87
13 years	1.99
14 years	2.10
15 years	2.20
16 years	2.30
17 years	2.39
18 years	2.47

19 years	2.55
20 years	2.62
21 years	2.69
22 years	2.75
23 years	2.80
24 years	2.85
25 years	2.89
26 years	2.92
27 years	2.95
28 years	2.97
29 years	2.99
30 years	3.00

Q10: Fire Alarm Department Promotional Exam Trainings and Certificates

Q10: Please indicate the number of certifications you have earned (list of accepted trainings is included in the candidate preparation guide).

No certifications earned	0
1 certification earned	3.5
2 certifications earned	7
3 certifications earned	10.5
4 certifications earned	14
5 certifications earned	17.5
6 certifications or more	20

Q11-Q12: Education

Q11: Asked whether the candidate understood the instructions for the Education portion of the claim.

Q12: As of the February 15, 2025, if you have a related and/or unrelated conferred degree(s) from a regionally accredited college or university, choose the highest-ranked degree you have obtained*. Below is a list of related degree fields.

Related Degree Fields: Business Administration, Business Management, Communications, Computer Science, Emergency Management, Executive/Organizational Leadership, Fire Administration, Fire Safety, Fire Science, Fire Service, Homeland Sec./ Security and Intelligence Studies, Information Technology (IT), Psychology, Public Administration.

Non-Related Degree Fields: All other fields.

*Note: the degrees below are listed in order of highest-ranked (Related Master's or higher Degree) to lowest-ranked (Unrelated Associate's Degree).

Related Master's or higher Degree	10
Related Bachelor's Degree	9
Related Associate's Degree	8

Unrelated Master's Degree	6
Unrelated Bachelor's Degree	5
Unrelated Associate's Degree	4
No degree	0

Scoring methodology:

You will receive an ECT&E score notice that will indicate the maximum points you earned in each category. In addition, the score notice will list any categories that you claimed but were not credited due to a lack of supporting documentation or errors in calculation. The final ECT&E score that will appear on your score notice will be derived through a standardization and weighting process. In addition, the ECT&E exam component as a whole is weighted relative to the Written (Technical Knowledge, Situational Judgement) component. You cannot add up the points based on the information in this guide to obtain the score that will represent 20% of your total overall score on your Statewide Promotional Examination.

A candidate who fails to submit an ECT&E application within 7 days after the written exam date, will receive a score of “Incomplete”. A candidate who fails to submit any supporting documentation to their ECT&E application will receive a score of “Incomplete”.