

2026 MINE RESCUE, FIRST AID, BENCH AND PRESHIFT RULES
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Section I

<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
Bench.....	2
Team Technician.....	3
Coal Mine Rescue.....	4
First Aid.....	24
Preshift.	28
MNM Mine Rescue.....	30

BENCH

1. Do you have to verbalize simulating putting ice in the cooler or chemical in the scrubber or is it okay to just physically do it?
The rules do not require you to verbalize the simulation, but it is highly recommended to do both, so the judges are aware that you are doing it.
2. If a contestant is cut by a part of the apparatus, will they be docked?
No. Both you and the clock should be stopped immediately. You should be turned around, and your cut should be treated until the bleeding has stopped. The apparatus should be cleaned and then you should be restarted.
3. Do the visual exams have to be in order?
No. You can do the visual exams in any order.
4. Can the Panorama mask be used on the Pro Air apparatus?
No. It is not on the approved accessories list for the Pro Air. It can still be used with the BG-4 and the Care Vent.
5. Should part number 12 (O2 cylinder) on the BioPak 240 Revolution Complete drawing and part number 16 (Oxygen Cylinder Hold-Down Strap) on the Lower Housing Assembly drawing along with part number 1 (Green Cylinder) on the Oxygen Cylinder Assembly drawing names all be changed to the same name to be consistent?
All 3 parts have different objectives in the manual and are separate and distinct parts and it is verbatim out of the manual. They will not be changed.
6. Under Bg-4 rules page 7 rule number 4 it says participant will verbally identify cylinder pressure on the gauge, pressure rating on the cylinder, the latest hydrostatic test date. Are we saying that the contestant no longer has to verbally identify these details? If so, should it be removed from the rules?
Yes, it should be removed from the rules. You do not have to verbalize any of these details. This will be removed next year.
7. Question for the BioPak 240R. If the test apparatus section of the judge's checklist is to be followed in proper sequence and zero adjust the mag gauge is the first line item on the checklist, wouldn't it be proper to discount the contestant for improper sequence if they were to conduct the constant flow test regardless of if the tester is used in conducting the test?
You are not required to zero the mag gauge until right before you start testing with the mag gauge. The flow test can be done before zeroing the mag gauge. For next year the judges' checklist top two lines can be switched to make it less confusing. We do not want to change the testing procedures that have been in place since the apparatus began to be used.

TEAM TECHNICIAN

1. In team tech competition, why does missing or incorrectly getting an air reading result in only one discount, while failing to identify a “bug” on the gas detector results in five discounts? What is the rationale behind the difference in point values shouldn’t the field discounts be the same?

The gas detector unit is a valuable, lifesaving component of mine rescue. Identifying problems with the unit is viewed as a higher risk factor for mine rescue personnel. Discounts will be reevaluated following the 2026 season to address any discrepancies.

2. In the event of a tie in team tech event, the written statement test is used as the tiebreaker and appears to outweigh field performance. In other contest categories, tiebreakers do not appear to be weighted the same. For example, a team failed to get the correct air reading (1 discount), another team missed 1 statement question (1 discount). The team with 1 field discount finishes ahead of team with one discount from statement. Shouldn’t field discounts outweigh written test to be in line with all other contest categories?

The discounts used evolved from merge of multiple contests. Discounts will be reevaluated following the 2026 season to address any discrepancies.

3. Why is there not statements of facts? There is statements for everything else.

The user manual changes with instrument updates. We would have to change statements every time this happens and to keep it easy for everyone, we use the modules listed and the most up to date user manuals for testing.

4. Will the Industrial Scientific Ventis Pro 5 be added to Team Tech Rules?

Industrial Scientific Corporation says this unit meets the requirements and will need to be added to the rules before use. It will be evaluated following the 2026 season for approval.

5. For the area calculation, if you take 143×49 to get square inches then divide by 144 to convert to square feet you get an area of 48.66 sq. ft. instead of 48.63. Would this be counted wrong?

Yes. For consistency, the rule specifically addresses rounding each element.

6. What would be the correction factor for an anemometer reading of 1,100 fpm?

Page 17 states “Interpolation for correction factor is not required.” The examples provided state “Select correction factor nearest Reading (FPM)”.

7. Regarding the previous question from Mr. Setzer, if it is not required to interpolate the correction and contestants may choose either correction, problem designers should have both correction findings or answers listed on the Judges score sheets.

The Correction Chart and example provided on page 17 states, "Select correction factor nearest Reading (FPM)". Therefore, either response would be correct.

8. If you are not required to have a NO₂ sensor for your mine rescue MX6 meter under Part 49, are you required to have a NO₂ sensor in your meter for Team Tech.
Page 17 states "For contest purposes, multi-gas instruments used by the teams during the field and technician team competitions must meet the requirements of 30 CFR 49.6(a)(6) and 30 CFR 49.16(a)(6)" and "report all required concentrations within acceptable limits for O₂, CH₄, CO and NO₂."

COAL MINE RESCUE

1. During the working of the problem, can the team and BO be in the fresh air base at the same time? Ex: Bo is getting a stretcher ready, putting up a build, etc?
When the team is at the FAB, the briefing officer can move anywhere in the FAB, but when the team is in by the FAB, the BO must be in his designated location. When the team is working in by the FAB, the BO can only leave his/her location when directed by the team. See (RULES GOVERNING 2026 MINE RESCUE CONTESTS 1. last paragraph)
2. If a problem states "explore all areas..." and the team has accounted for all missing miners, but there is still an unexplored area behind an intact barricade or stopping, will the team be required to ventilate the barricade to breach it, or airlock through the stopping to make the other side?
Yes, Rule 44F states that "Inaccessible areas need not be explored unless the team has explored all accessible areas and there are unaccounted for persons---". Barricades and stoppings are not considered inaccessible so the area behind them would have to be explored or the team would be discounted for not following written instruction.
3. If a problem states "explore all areas..." and the team has accounted for all missing miners, but there is still an unexplored area behind water or unsafe roof, will teams be required to pump water or set timbers in order to make the area?
No, Rule 44F states that "Inaccessible areas need not be explored unless the team has explored all accessible areas and there are unaccounted for persons---". Water over knee deep and unsafe roof are inaccessible areas.
4. Can I send fresh air through an unexplored area?
Yes, If the team has explored both sides of the unexplored area and no gas placard is present then it is safe to vent fresh air through the condition. Caution should be used when large unexplored areas containing intersections that could have a gas placard in the intersection.

5. If there is a placard with a patient that says "Help", are we required to map the "HELP?"
No, A Card Rule 5G states If the information is considered to be a "note", narrative on the placard will identify it as a "note". Patient statements are not considered to be "notes" and are not required to be mapped.
6. Rule 18, Should every place that says command center in rule 18 be Briefing Officer?
Yes
7. A Card Rule 5&6, If the team changes the fan from blowing to exhausting and then back to blowing, back to the original operation of the fan at the start of the problem, does this need to be noted on the team(s) maps?
No
8. Rules 41, What takes priority, a visual or verbal patient?
Both are equal this year
9. Rule 41, Does a note count as a verbal Response?
No
10. A Card Rule 5&6, If a team encounters a withdraw situation in an intersection, would the team be required to map everything in the intersection?
Yes
11. Rule 31, If an explosive gas is on top of an overcast and a battery is under the overcast is this a quitter?
No
12. Rule 41, If setting timbers in unsafe roof to gain access to a patient and the timbers set to make the area safe go through the back side of the unsafe can the captain make this area on the other side of the unsafe roof to the corner during that stop?
Yes, if the captain remains within his 25' limit from his original stopping point, does not break the plane line, and the patient is being attended to.
13. Rule 17&18, What is the procedure you should follow if a team loses communication with the briefing office?
See rules 17 and 18
14. Written exam, the rule says that only one choice should make the statement correct. What about choices such as 15 or fifteen?
Both would be correct
15. Rule A card 5&6, If Help! Help! Is on a card and the team maps it with an "X" would

it be a discount?

Yes, the exception is If it says "Note: Help! Help!", then it would be an X but if it's a patient statement, then it is not required to be on the map. The team can choose to put it on the map as additional information but can't use existing symbols i.e. "X"

16. Rule 41B, 41B is talking about reaching a patient, not locating a patient like 41A. Reaching a patient verbally is not a thing. Now it reads like you are restricted by 41B after you speak to a patient through a barricade?
This year you are tied equally to a verbal or visual patient
17. Rule 32, If all missing persons are not accounted for and all areas of the mine have been explored in an attempt to locate all missing miners will a team be required to timber to bodies? Will they be discounted if they do timber to the body?
No, No
18. Rule 11, The rule says all unconscious patients must be put on a stretcher, if by problem design, I have to put a conscious person on a stretcher do I have to follow all procedures in rule 11 that applies to putting patients on a stretcher?
Yes
19. Rule A card 5 & 6, Once the clock has started, can additional placards be placed on the field in areas that have already been explored?
Yes, but the team is not responsible for mapping these cards unless they travel back through this area. Teams do not have to re-explore the mine to see if placards have been added
20. Should the placards be placed flipped over and then turned over when the fan starts?
They can but there is nothing that says they must be
21. Rule 41, Part C states "...row of timbers to rescue an injured or unconscious person found under unsafe roof" What constitutes an injured person? In mine rescue a person is either conscious or unconscious or dead. Additionally does this rule apply to conscious people as well?
There is nothing in the rules that address injured patients so problem designers would need to specify what the injury is in writing along with restrictions; Example would be a written instructions given to the team (not mapped) or a placard that says; conscious with broken leg, cannot walk or must be taken out a stretcher. Teams should not have to guess what the problem designer wants. If problem designer's instructions are not followed, then the team would be discounted under Rule 50.

22. Page 48 figure 6, Can more examples of figure 6 on page 48 be given?
No, the rules for this year are published and approved and cannot be added to or modified.
23. Page 31, Should a team be expected to assemble a radio during a problem to make it intrinsically safe?
By rule a radio battery by itself is considered an ignition source but when assembled it is not, so if a problem requires the team to move it through an explosive mixture or move an explosive mixture over it, the team will have to assemble it
24. A Card rule 5 & 6, If the placard says conscious or unconscious live person does the team have to map this?
The team should use the correct symbol in the legend for mapping the live person, and any additional information found on the placard must be written on the maps
25. A Card rule 5&6, Does the operation/condition of the mine fan(s) have to be placed on the mine maps?
Only if changes have been made to the mine fan(s)
26. Rules governing mine rescue #1, The team is not allowed to compare the team map and the briefing officer map, if the team uses another map on the field for ventilation purposes can it be compared with the briefing officer map?
No
27. A Card rule 5 & 6, Just clarifying about the patient placards when it comes to map judging. The team does not have to map the patient's statement like "Help! Help" but do have to map conscious or unconscious?
Yes
28. Figure 8 page 50, If a gas is touching an overcast wall whether the door is open or closed is that gas considered to be in the intersection and stays in the intersection and the extent of that gas doesn't extend inby creating a withdraw situation?
The gas placard is not found in the intersection, and it dictates the air course created by the overcast and should be treated the same as if it was found in the entry or crosscut. The team doesn't know if it extends inby until the other side is explored. See examples on Page 11 and 12 of this document.
29. Rule 31B, 31B says that energized cables or electrical circuits must be found in an explosive mixture in order for it to present a withdraw situation. Rules also state that energized cables are to be treated the same as evidence of a fire and does not have to be found in an explosive mixture but must have a known clear air separation between the gas and the energized cable. If there is not a known clear air separation between the gas and the cable, is it a withdraw situation?

Yes, it is a withdrawal situation if you find the energized cable in an explosive mixture or if there is not a known clear air separation between the cable and the explosive mixture, both.

30. Rule 31 B, at a withdraw situation the rule says that a roof and rib test and a gas test are not required. Will a team be discounted under this rule if they do take the gas test of make the roof and rib test?

No

31. Rule 31, Is a team required to take/make all required gas test on their way out of the mine in a withdraw situation and ventilation has been changed oner gas placards?

Yes

32. Can we please go back to MSHA judges in Utah? I believe a lot of this nit-picky stuff you guys' cover is because we have trainers from opposing teams judging and trying to give their teams the best chance by docking teams they judge with this grey type area rules. It opens more chances to cheat as well. I don't think this is happening, but it definitely makes it easier.

We prefer to have MSHA and State agencies judge contests but have no control over their availability

33. Figure 8 page 50, Can we show the extent of gases in the overcast drawings in the triangles that represent the area above and below the overcast? I think this would help teams understand where the gas is better.

The rules have been approved this year and cannot be modified. We will update the drawing next year to show the gases in the triangles that represent the top and bottom

34. Miscellaneous #4, What about the air splitting at the overcast? If I use door to vent over top, is it still splitting the air?

All air from one opening is required to clear a gas or smoke

35. Rule 41, Can you clarify about when verbal acknowledgment is considered made? For example, if a patient was to yell two breaks away when do you begin hearing him? Just trying to clear up places where you might have a patient in an intersection and yells from multiple sides.

The team should get a response from all approaches or areas that by problem design the team is tied to that person.

36. Rule 31B, 31B states "a team must continue to explore if it knows there is a continuous non-explosive separation between the explosive mixture and the evidence of fire or energized cables". (Teams that withdraw when conditions do not indicate a withdraw situation will be discounted under this rule along with all other applicable rules associated with premature withdraw.)

37. While rule designers appear to be attempting to fix team found quitters during active problem solving, there still remains an undefined issue. Specifically, the current framework does not account for instances where a team identifies a legitimate withdraw condition that was unintended by the problem designers and remained undetected until the day of the competition.

Despite the best efforts of designers, these anomalies occasionally occur. I believe it is time for the design committee to establish a protocol for teams that encounter a legitimate withdrawal situation that was not meant to be part of the exercise.

Proposed Solution: Could a protocol similar to those used in bench contests be implemented? This would allow a team to identify an external hazard as “not part of the problem” prior to stopping the clock, thereby preventing unfair discounts for a scientifically correct-Yet Unintended- withdraw.

Our answer to this has been to add to the rules the requirement of the contest to hold a briefing with trainers prior to the contest beginning to try and catch situations that might cause issues before the teams start working the problems.

38. B Card Rule 7, The Drager Pro Air apparatus’s ECU does not stay lit up “Woke Up” like the sentinel of the Drager BG 4. Does the ECU have to be “Woke Up” during the apparatus check when the captain observes the gauge?

No, B card Rule 7 states "A proper apparatus examination will include a verbalization that the person performing the apparatus examination is checking the gauge, facepiece, hoses, and determine by sight or feel, that the protective cover is secure." This is a verbalization only examination except for the touching of the protective cover, the gauge does not have to be touched or actually read. Also, the buddy light on the back of the app will show by a rapid blinking red light is the oxygen level is low. If the team is required to report lowest O2 reading during the team checks the ECU would have to the “woke up”.

39. Regarding the team trainer/company official briefing:

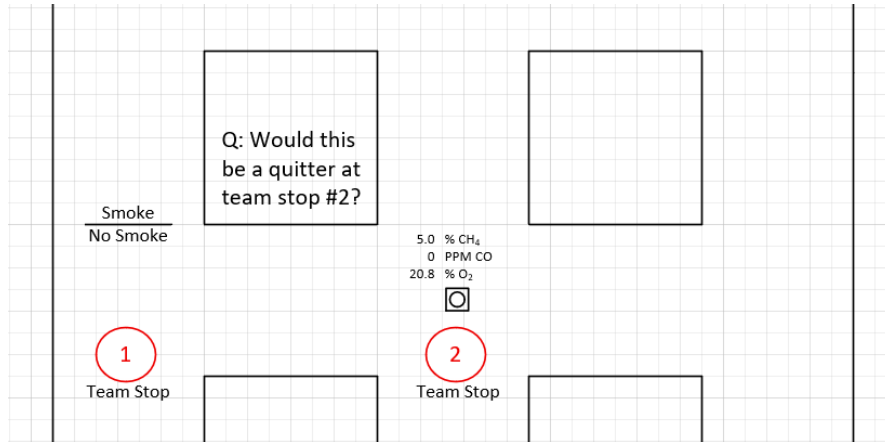
1. Does this not give them the opportunity to reveal the problem to the team or guide the team during the problem?

No, the teams will be in lockup and can have no contact with the trainer.

2. Does this not interfere with the FAB procedures of the team getting 4 minutes to start after getting the briefing statement?

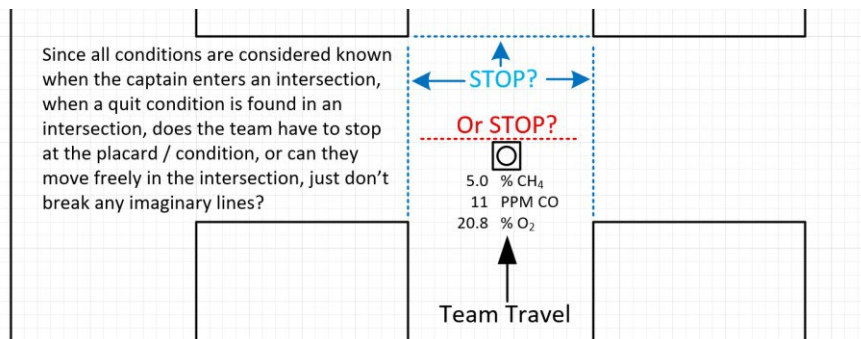
The briefing will take place after the teams are in lockup and before the first team reports to the field. It will not interfere with the team in any way.

40.



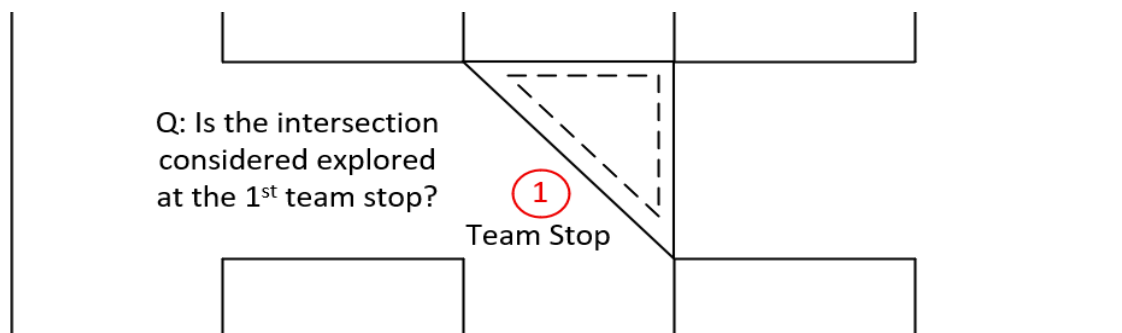
No, the smoke is not found in the intersection at team stop #2 so the 2 elements of the withdraw situation are not found in the intersection. Problem designers are going to be told not to use this scenario and expect teams to withdraw.

41.



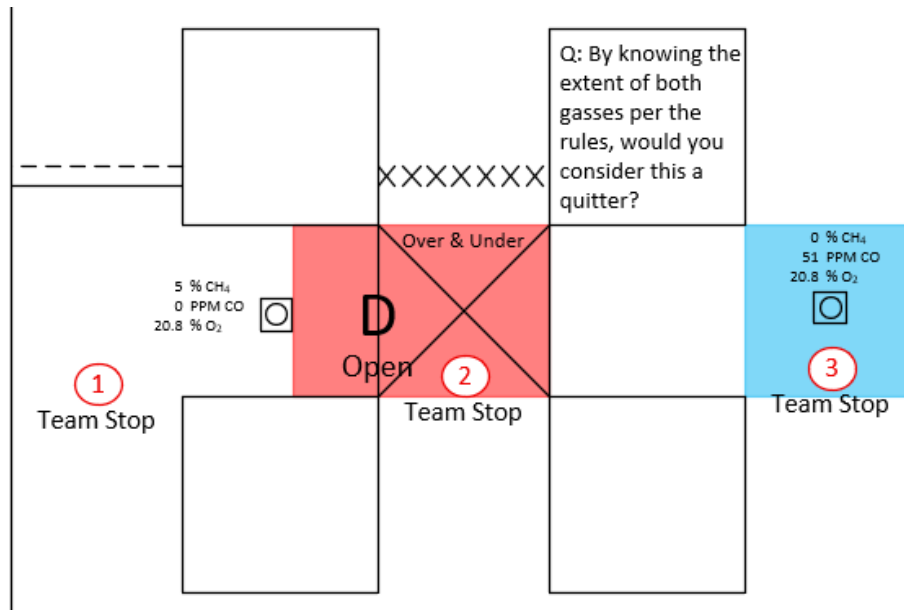
They can go anywhere in the intersection as long as they don't break the imaginary lines of the intersection. Rule 31B says: Teams will be discounted under this rule if they continue to explore (breaking the imaginary lines of the intersection) if a withdrawal situation is found in the intersection.

42.



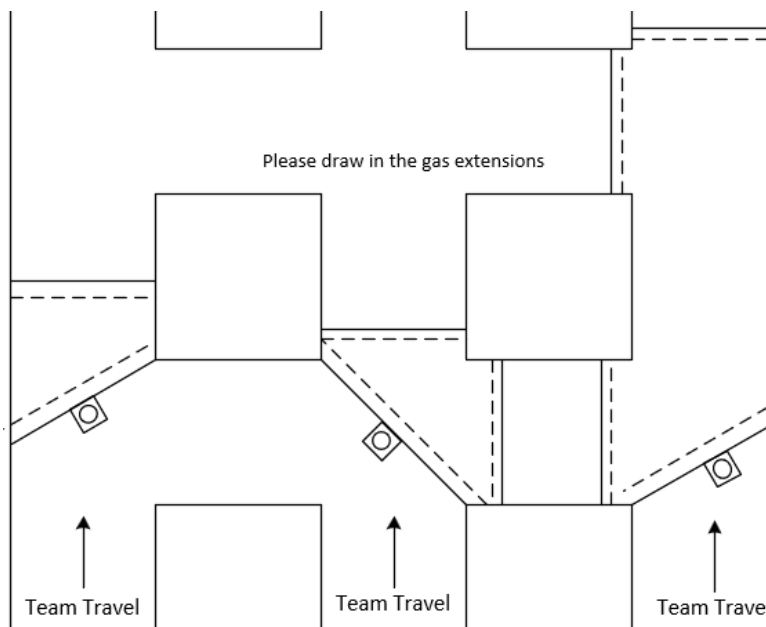
Yes

43.



No, the explosive gas is not found in the intersection at team stop #3 so the 2 elements of the withdraw situation are not found in the intersection. Problem designers are going to be told not to use this scenario and expect teams to withdraw.

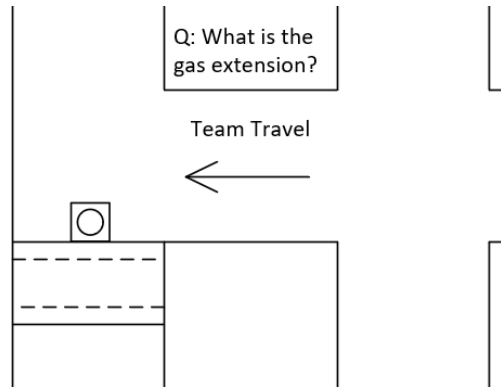
44.



The gases are confined to the intersection. Rule 24E says: If gas is intended to extend into inaccessible areas, both placards must be side by side immediately

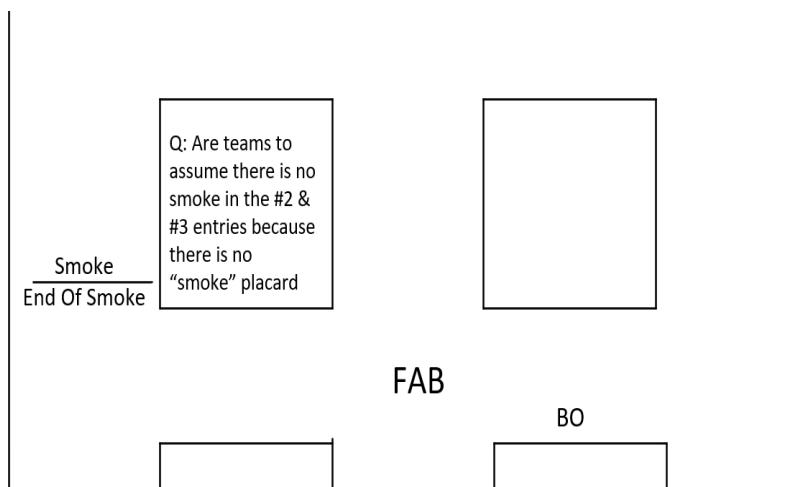
outby the inaccessible condition and will extend to the other side of the inaccessible condition regardless of the configuration or shape except where the gas placard is found in an intersection (the gas will be confined to the intersection.).

45.



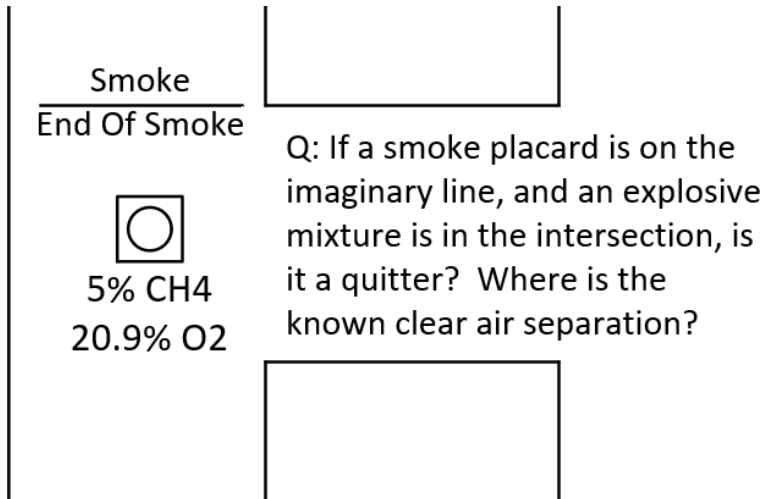
If the gas placard is side by side with the condition placard that is on the imaginary line, it is only in the condition. This is where a gas test is required and the way a problem designer informs the team that the gas is in the condition. It would not be in the intersection. If the problem designer wants the gas in the intersection, they can put another placard out in the intersection. This is the same as a placard side by side with an overcast wall indicating the gas is on top of the overcast and not in the entry.

46.



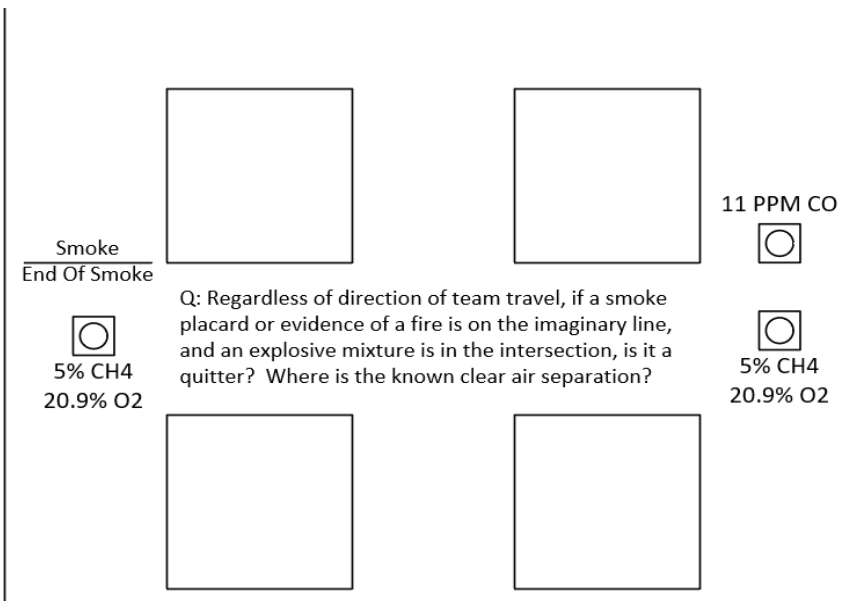
Yes, for there to be smoke in #2 and/or #3 there would have to be a smoke placard(s).

47.



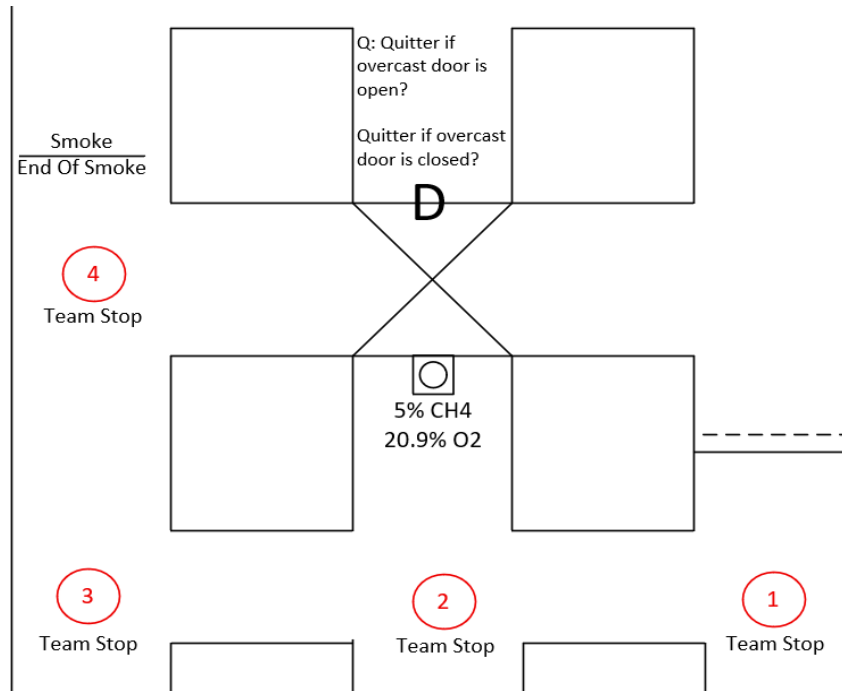
No, the smoke is not found in the intersection so the 2 elements of the withdraw situation are not found in the intersection, the end of smoke placard could be viewed as a clear air separation. Poor problem design! Problem designers are going to be told not to use this scenario and expect teams to withdraw.

48.



No, the 2 elements of the withdraw situation are not found in the intersection, the end of smoke placard could be viewed as a clear air separation. Poor problem design! Problem designers are going to be told not to use an explosive gas in an intersection expecting teams to withdraw.

49.

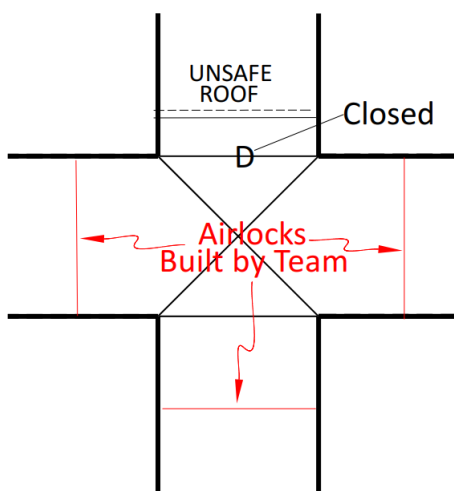


Yes, the teams should withdraw at Team Stop 4.

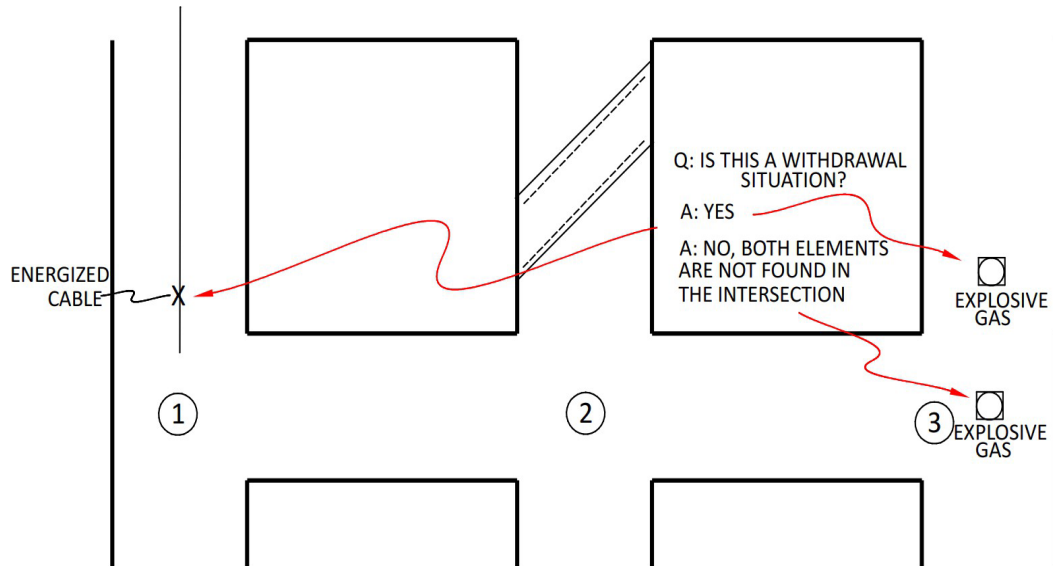
50. Page 48 figure 6, If the other side of an overcast is inaccessible, can the overcast still be airlocked by building on the other three sides?

Yes, air locking three sides of an overcast prohibits air movement and should be considered a proper airlock.

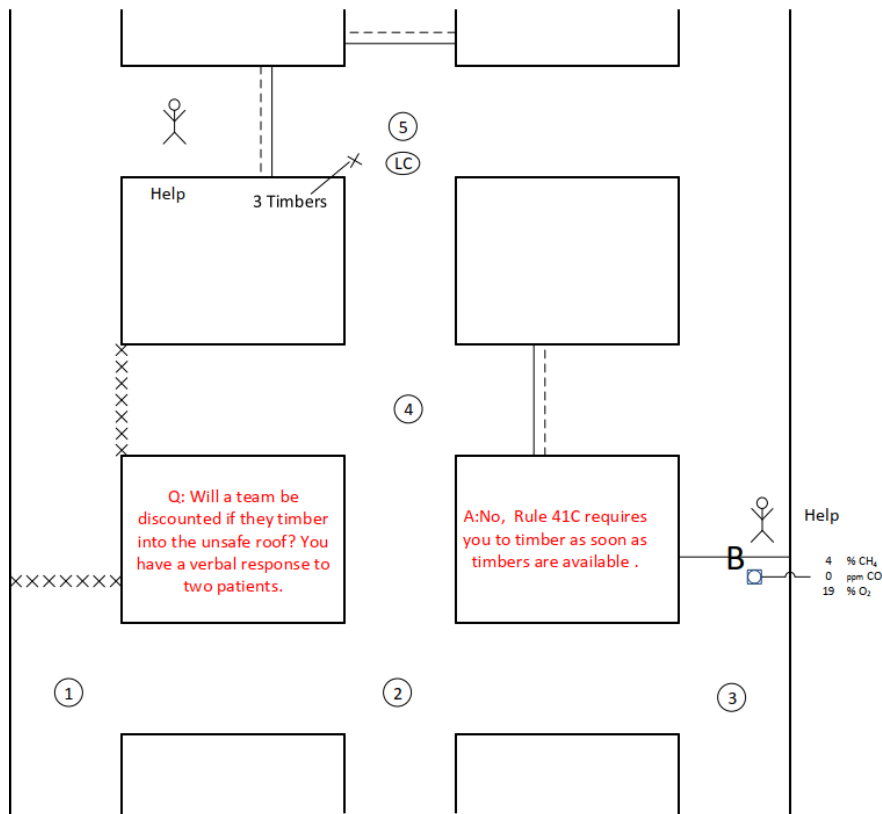
Example:



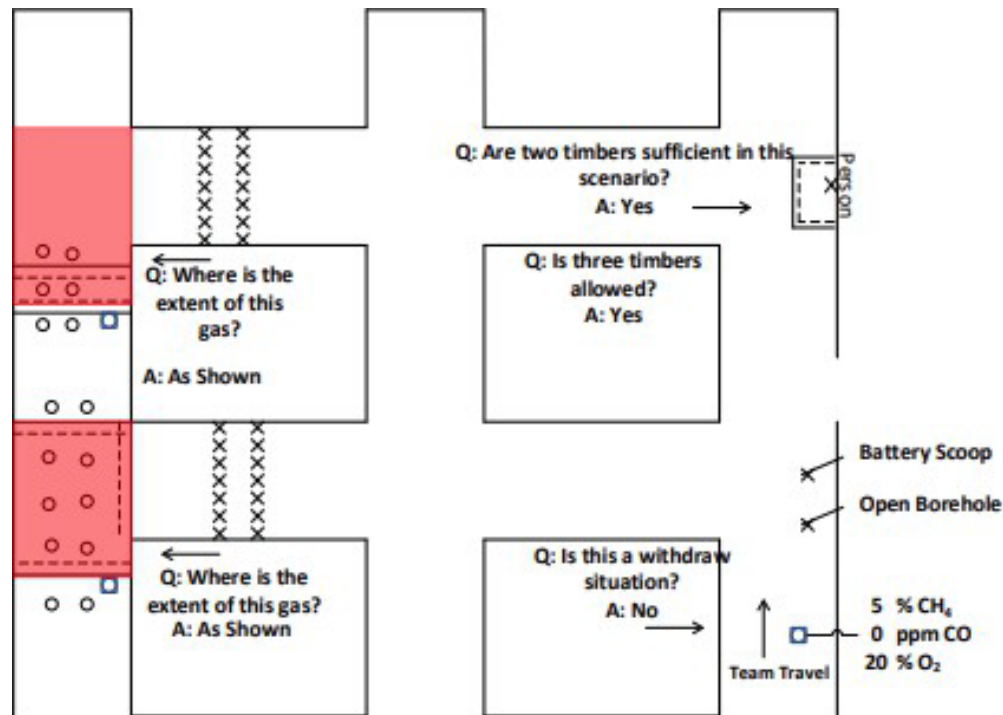
51.



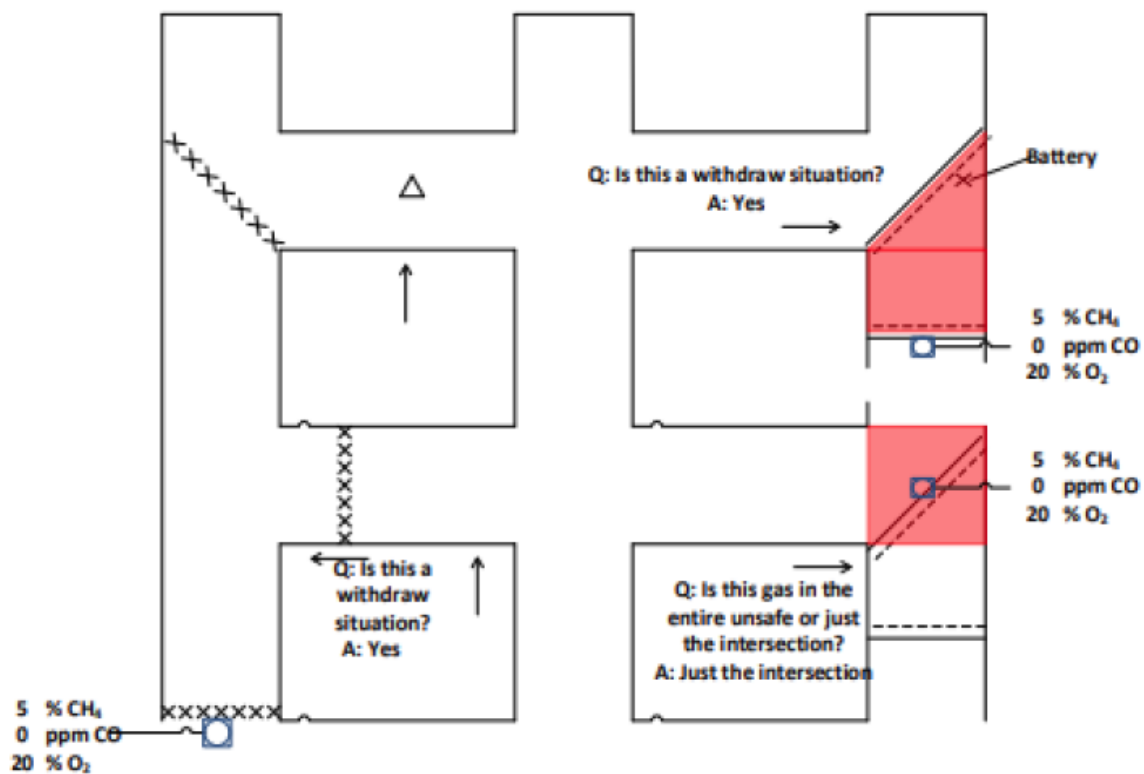
52.



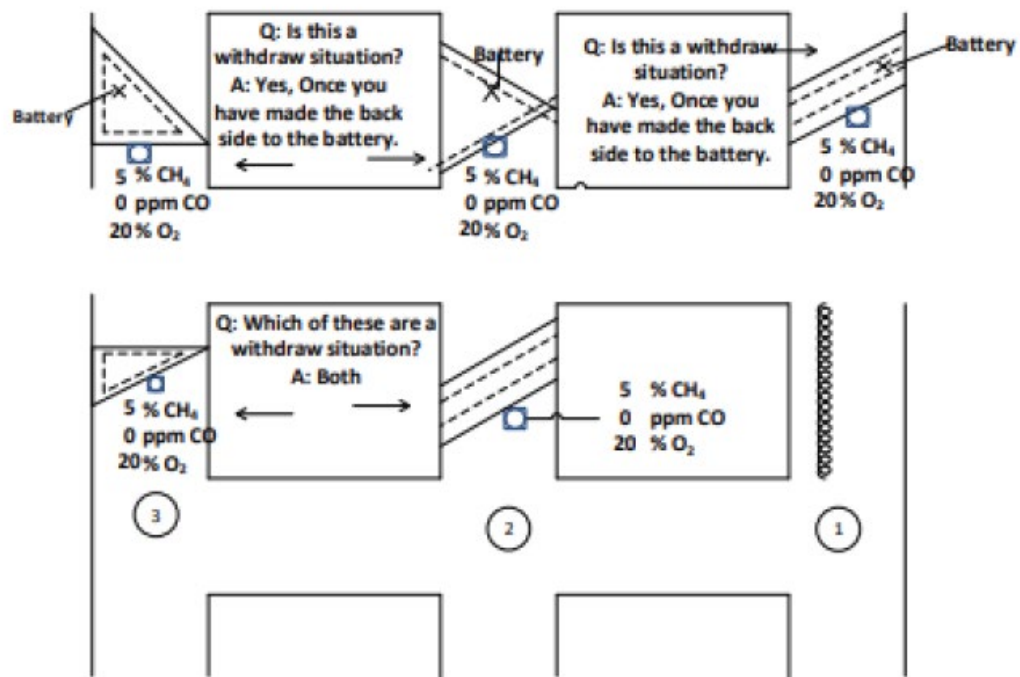
52 – 57. - Multiple questions in diagram



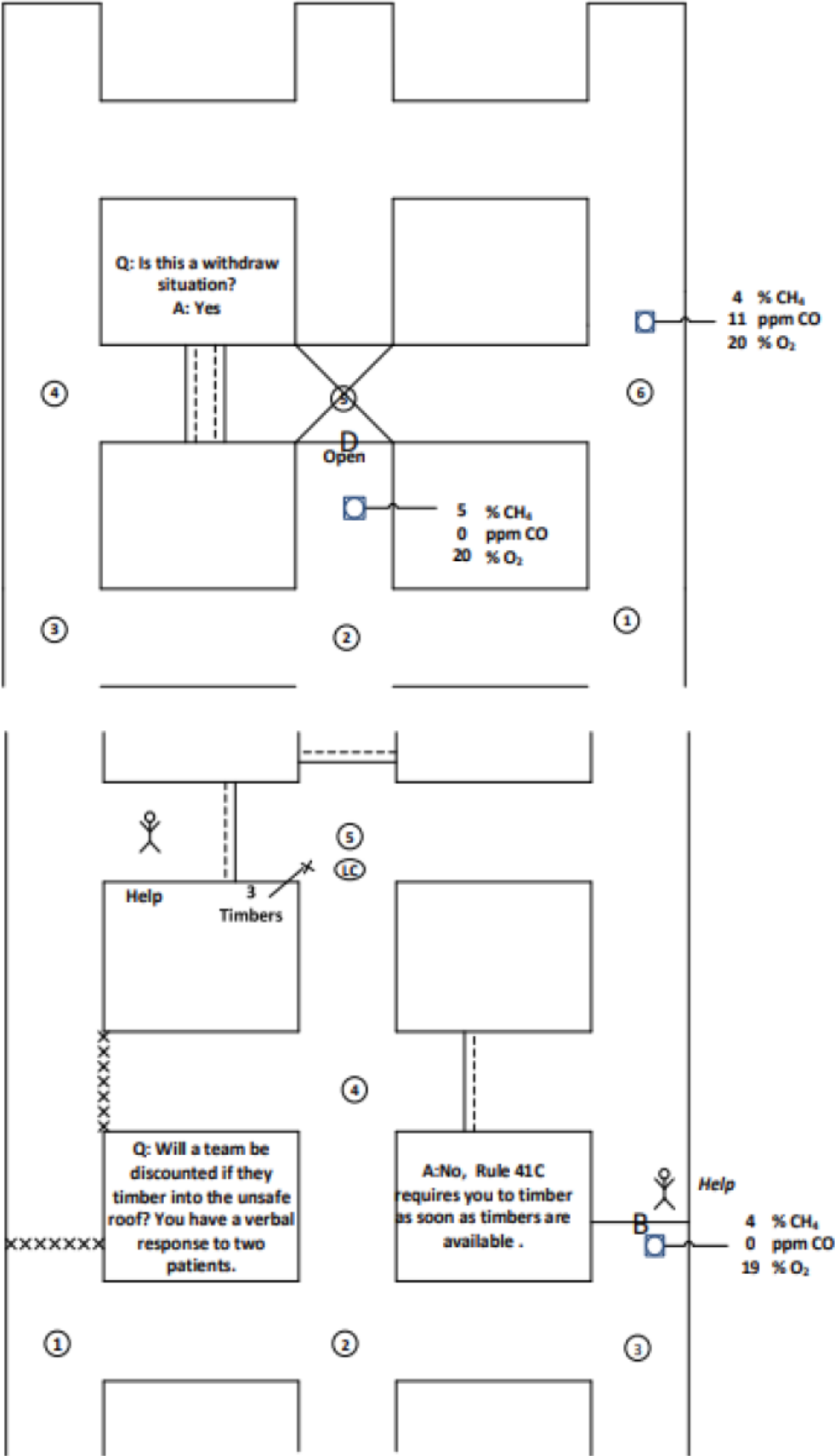
58 - 60. - Multiple questions in diagram



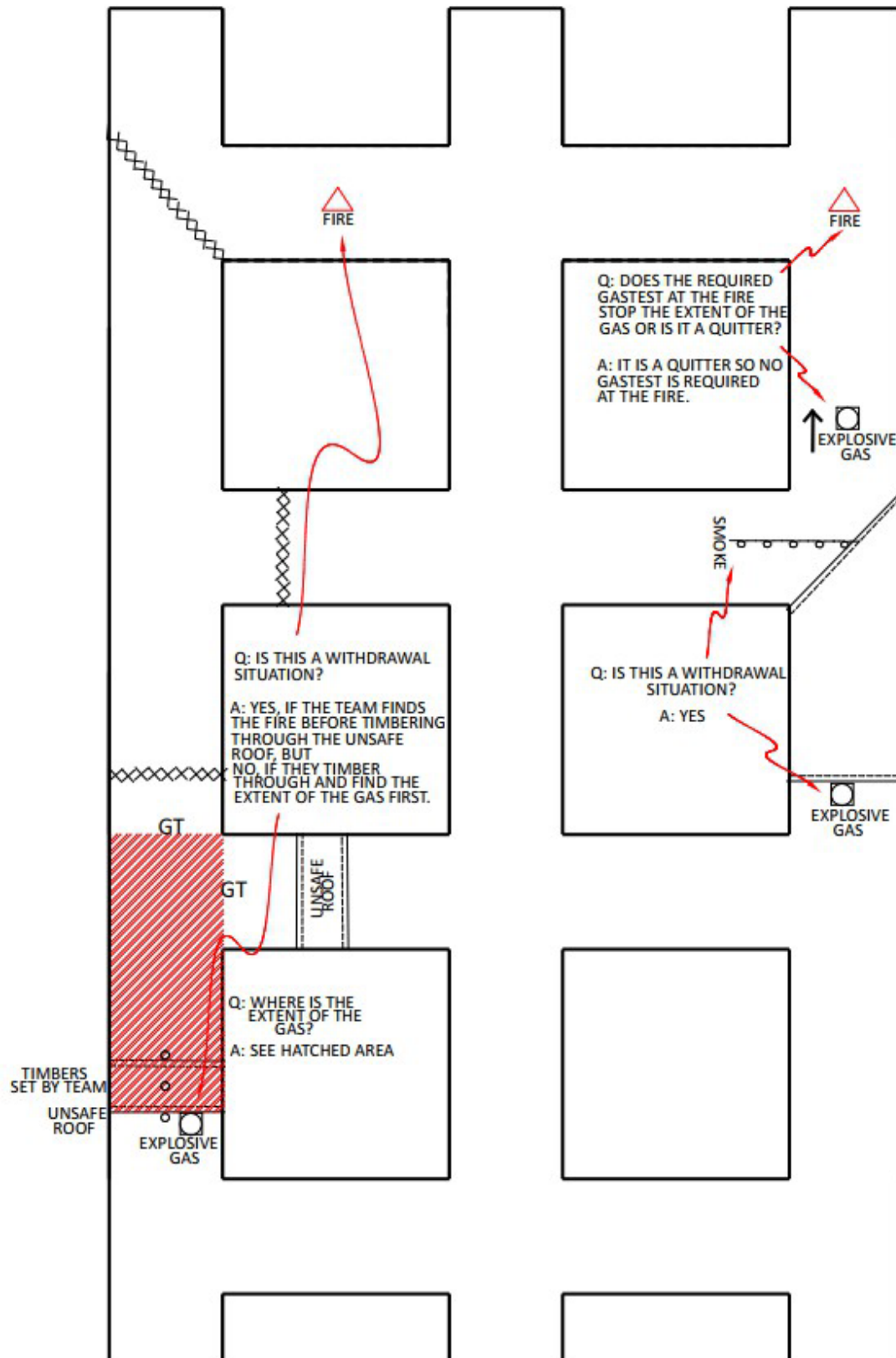
61 – 63. - Multiple questions in diagram



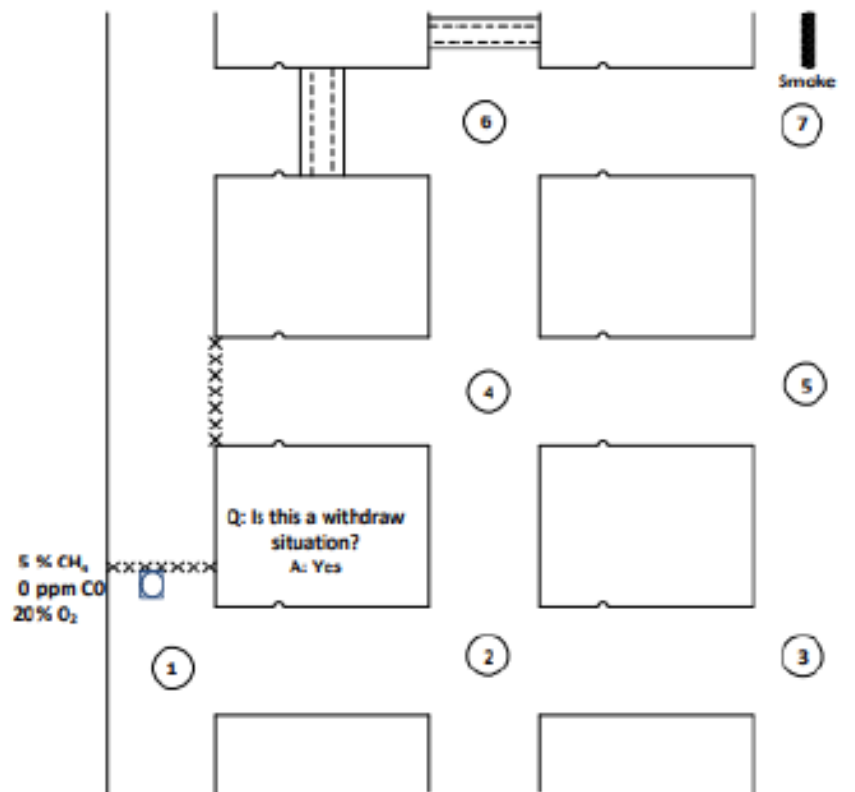
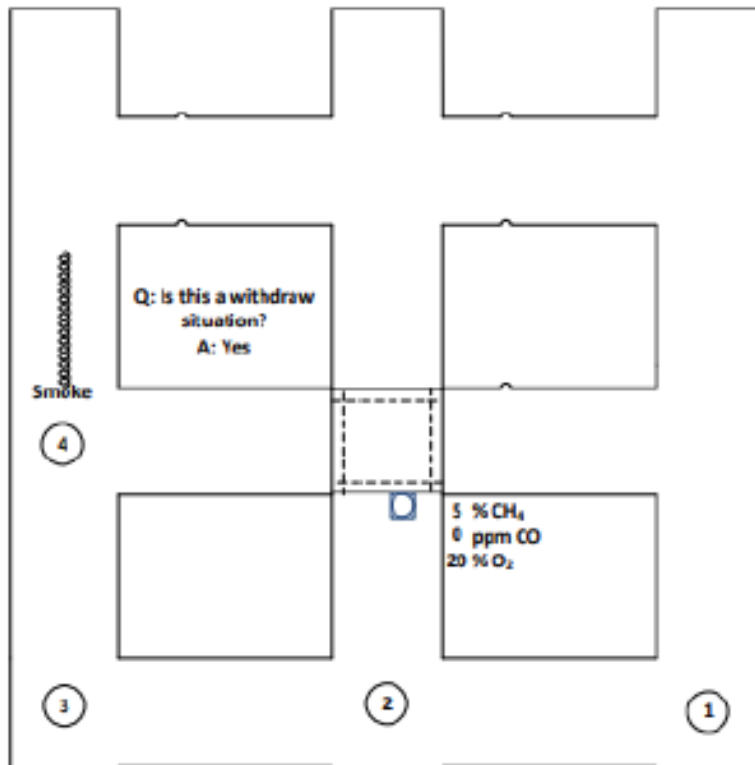
64 – 65. - Multiple questions in diagram



66 – 69. - Multiple questions in diagram



70 – 71. - Multiple questions in diagram



72.

1.) NEW VERBAGE IN RULE 24 E ON PAGE 24 STATES THAT WHEN A GAS PLACARD IS FOUND IN AN INTERSECTION, THE GASES WILL BE CONFINED TO THE INTERSECTION

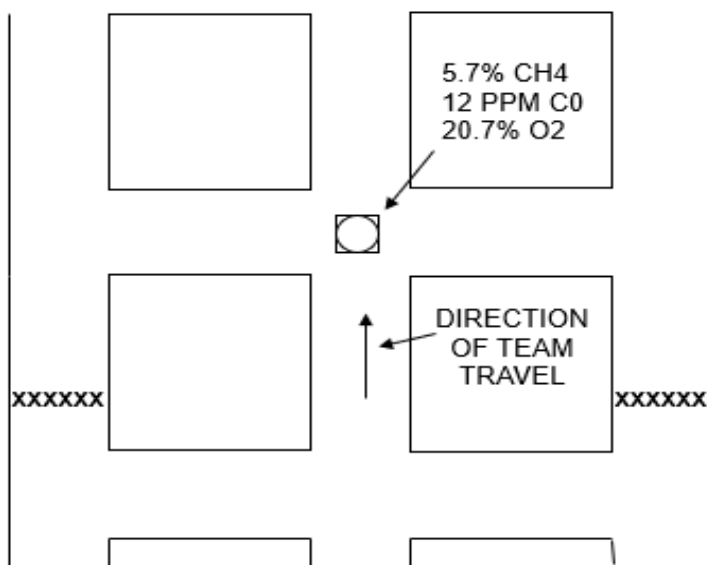
2.) RULE 29 ON PAGE 27 4TH PARAGRAPH STATES THAT WHEN THE CAPTAIN ENTERS AN INTERSECTION THE INTERSECTION IS CONSIDERED TO BE EXPLORED

3.) RULE 31 B ON PAGE 31 STATES THAT A TEAM CAN NOT CONTINUE TO EXPLORE IF CONDITIONS ARE PRESENT THAT INDICATE AN IMMINENT EXPLOSION IS POSSIBLE

QUESTION:

1. ALL THREE CRITERIA ARE PRESENT IN THE INTERSECTION
2. THE GASSES ARE CONFINED TO THE INTERSECTION
3. THE CAPTAIN HAS EXPLORED THE INTERSECTION AND DETERMINED THAT THE INTERSECTION HAS NEITHER AN IGNITION SOURCE OR A FIRE WHICH WOULD MAKE AN IMMINENT EXPLOSION IMPOSSIBLE

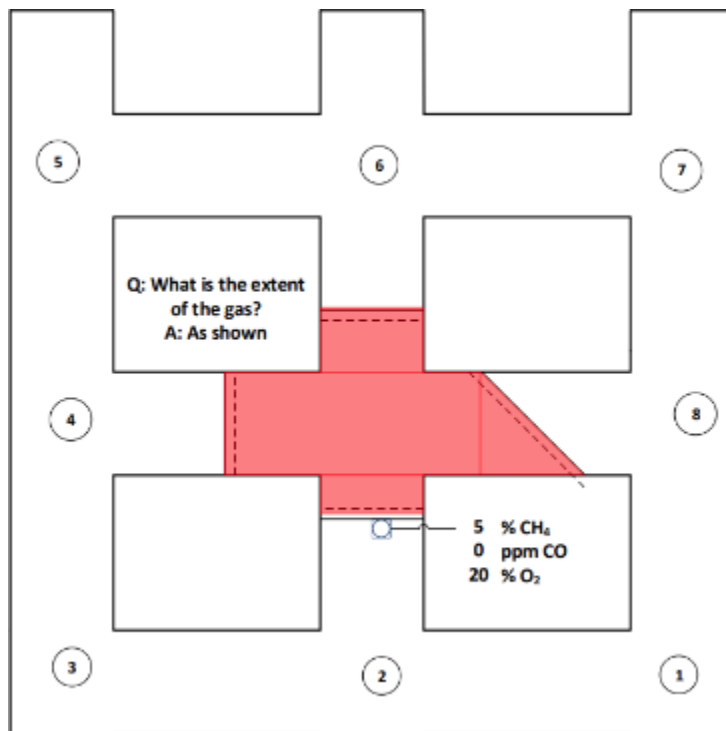
WOULD THE TEAM BE REQUIRED TO BREAK THE IMAGINARY LINES OF THE INTERSECTION TO DETERMINE THE CONTINUATION OF THE GASSES?



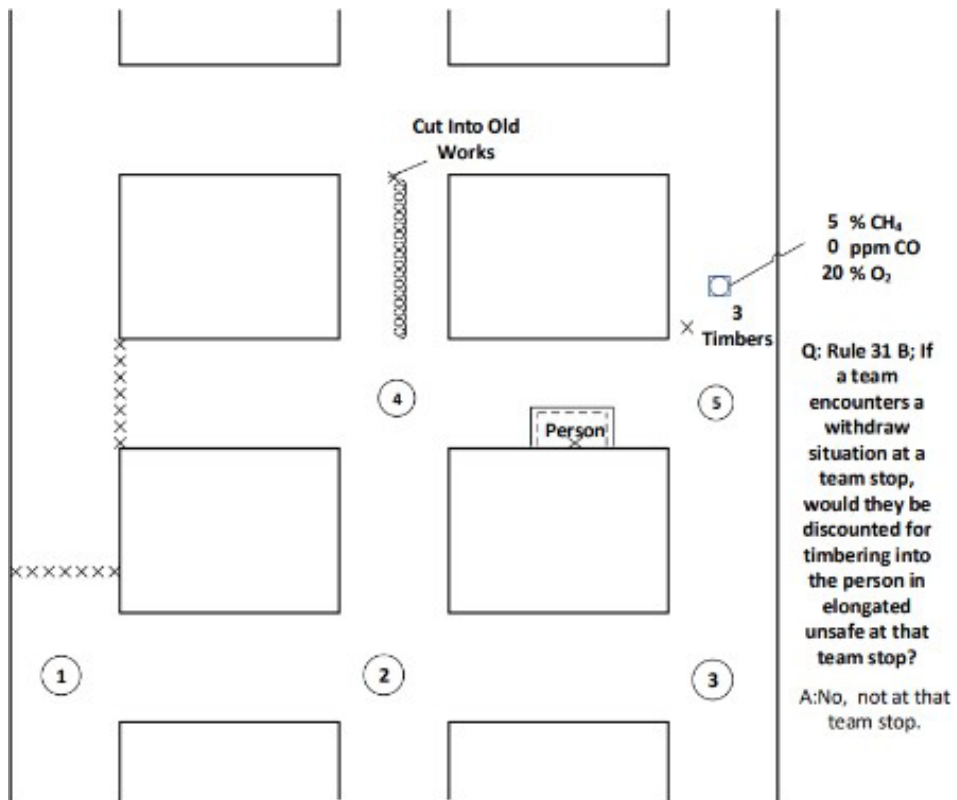
No, teams cannot break the imaginary line of the intersection to determine the continuance of the gas. Rule 31B says: Teams will be discounted under this rule if they continue to explore (breaking the imaginary lines of the intersection) if a withdrawal situation is found in the intersection.

If both elements of a withdrawal situation are found in an intersection, the team must quit.

73.

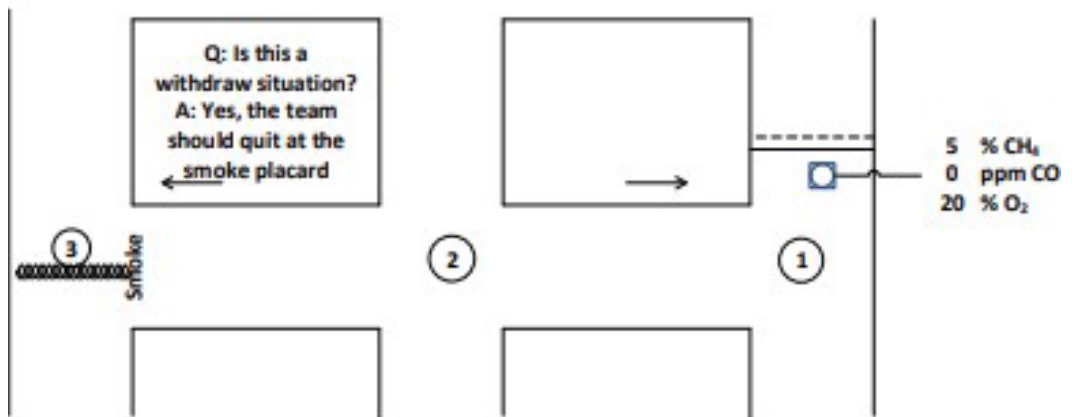
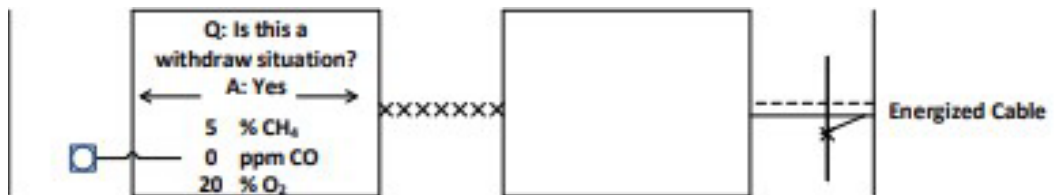
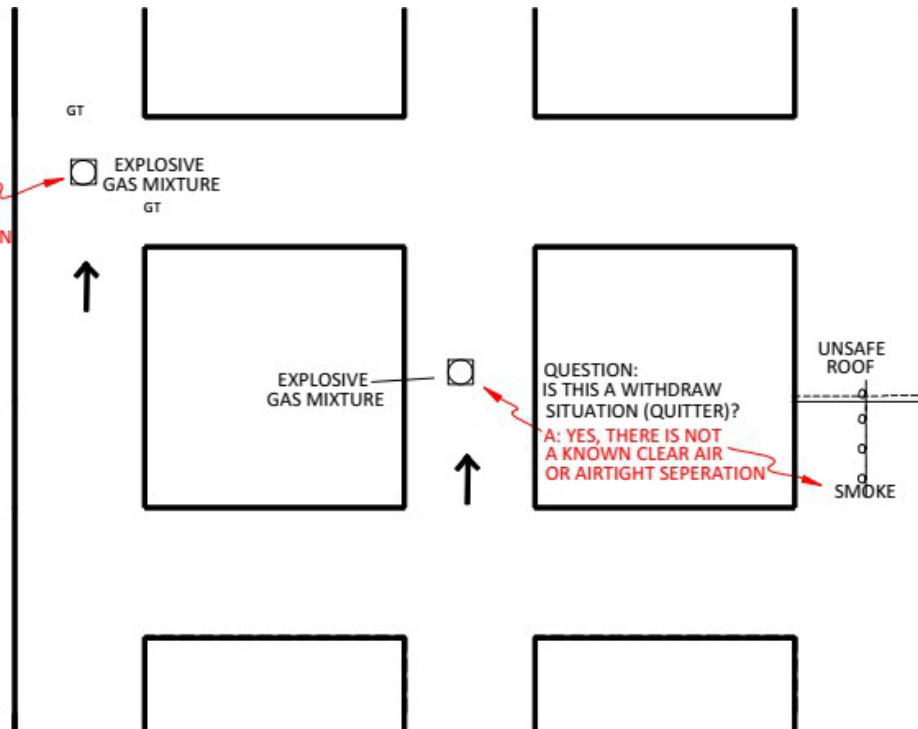


74.



75. – 78. Multiple questions in diagrams

QUESTION:
IS THIS A WITHDRAW
SITUATION (QUITTER)?
A: NO, ONLY ONE
ELEMENT OF A
WITHDRAWAL SITUATION
IS PRESENT IN THE
INTERSECTION



FIRST AID

1. If you have a patient with an open fracture that has a life threatening bleed at the open fracture, this makes the patient immediate. You take manual support to bandage the life threatening bleed according to rule 21. Can you now release manual support since the patient is immediate and you do not have to splint the fracture?

Under Rule 2 of Score Card A, no work other than controlling bleeding shall be done until bleeding is controlled. You can release support after bleeding is controlled in this scenario because the patient is immediate and the only treatments provided are for life threatening conditions.

2. Same scenario as above: if transportation is delayed, you will start your patient assessment. Can you let go of manual support of the fracture until you systematically get back to the fracture? What if you let go of manual support because this is an immediate patient and you find out later that transportation has been delayed, should you be discounted for releasing manual support?

You can break support after the bleeding is controlled and you would be required to take support as soon as the fracture is found during patient assessment and maintain support until the fracture is properly splinted. Team should not be discounted for breaking support for an immediate patient that later becomes delayed due to transportation but again you would take support as soon as treatment begins.

3. Is the flow chart on Page 10 just a tool for triaging or does this need to be verbalized when triaging patients?

The flow chart is a tool for triage and does not have to be verbalized.

4. Should Open Airway be before Breathing and should Checking for Pulse follow along with rescue breaths or CPR?

Follow the skill sheet for CPR. (If this question is about the flow chart, Breathing, yes or no, if they are breathing check number of respirations and follow chart from there. If they are not breathing open their airway, if they are not breathing with the airway open they are deceased, if they do breathe when you open the airway they are immediate.)

5. On 2 Rescuer CPR w/ AED, redlines say after compression is started the AED must be applied. Is the AED applied after the first cycle of CPR or first set of CPR?

The AED is applied as soon as it is available and after compressions is started in accordance to American Heart Association and as the skill sheet is outlined. There is no set number of compressions to be performed and is to be applied as soon as available after compressions have started.

6. On the same skill sheet on Part 5 has the rescuer doing compressions then applying AED, then Part 6 has the rescuer doing compressions again before the first-time giving breaths, is this correct?

Yes. In accordance with American Heart Association, you deliver 30 compressions and the 2 breaths.

7. Will you never hold C-Spine while doing CPR, due to redline eliminating that skill sheet?
The two skill sheets were duplicates with different headings. Follow current skill sheet for two person CPR with AED. Item 1, C. Determine unconsciousness without compromising cervical spine(neck) injury. You would be required to hold C-Spine if you suspect or know there is a spinal injury. Follow skill sheet for Establishing Airway-Suspected Cervical (Neck) Injury.
8. If you start artificial ventilation and count the first breath and start the clock and give a breath every 6 seconds you would deliver 10 breaths in 54 seconds instead of 60 so you would deliver 11 breaths in 60 seconds. This exceeds the 10 breaths in the rules. Would a team be discounted for giving 11 in 60 seconds?
Team will not be discounted for 11 breaths in 60 seconds. Team will be discounted if they deliver fewer than 10 or 12 or more in 60 seconds. (The clock should start when you give the first breath.)
9. Is mask still required for the materials list?
Yes, masks are part of the material list. Masks are not required to be worn as part of BSI now. Team can wear masks if they want to but will not be discounted for not wearing them.
10. Two rescuer CPR say after compressions have started, the AED must be applied. Can teams do 1 or 2 compressions and then apply the AED pads?
Yes. The AED is used as soon as available and after the start of compressions with no set number of compressions performed prior to applying the AED pads.
11. Once shock is delivered, or no shock is advised will teams perform CPR as required by the envelope?
Yes. Teams will perform CPR as directed, starting at item 6 on the skill sheet and completing the skill sheet for CPR.
12. CPR with spinal injury has been removed. Does this mean that we perform CPR the same?
No. Team must support the neck if suspected or known spinal injury exists.
13. If a patient has spinal injury and we perform CPR are we still required to hold stabilization of the head and neck during CPR?
Yes. Follow current skill sheet for two person CPR with AED. Item 1, C. Determine unconsciousness without compromising cervical spine(neck) injury. You would be required to hold C-Spine if you suspect or know there is a spinal injury. Follow skill sheet for Establishing Airway-Suspected Cervical (Neck) Injury.
14. Can teams use the factory rubber 1 inch Tourniquet? When stretched it may be less than 1 inch but in the box, it is 1 inch and is commonly found in coal mine first aid boxes?
If it is in the factory box that is labeled tourniquet and is 1 inch wide it would be acceptable.
15. There is no AED process listed for One-Person CPR. Is no AED required when performing one person CPR?
There has never been AED process in the One-Person CPR skill sheet. Follow the skill sheet.

16. Are vests allowed on the field?

Yes but they cannot be worn by the team until after the clock is started if they are part of a jump kit with supplies for working of the problem. (Rule 8, scorecard A)

17. Are the teams allowed to wear shorts again? Under rule 7 of the A-Card discounts they removed the strike through and put “shorts” back to black. This was struck out last year.

Yes, teams can wear shorts in accordance with Rule 7. However, the contest director may have different requirements as some contests are held in underground mines. Teams should verify with the contest director to ensure they are properly dressed for conditions they may encounter during the working of the problem.

18. At what point will the compressions for CPR be judged.

All compressions will be judged for proper placement but only the compressions performed for CPR starting at item 6 of the skill sheet will be judged for depth, rate and ventilations based on the printout from the CPR manikin for 2-person CPR with AED and all compressions and ventilations for 1-person CPR.

19. If a team is working on a patient with a suspected spinal injury and holding stabilization and the team starts 1 or 2 person CPR would stabilization, then move to the CPR manikin?

YES, The CPR manikin has now taken the place of the actual patient and once CPR is completed the team will move back to the patient.

20. Breathing difficulties, loss of pulse, life threatening bleeding, spinal injury, skull fracture, severe hyperthermia, heat stroke and sucking chest wound are all considered life threats. Does any of these conditions make a patient an immediate patient?

YES, and the patient would be considered immediate and treated as such under the description of immediate patient on page 11 of the rules.

21. The Triage flow chart is confusing, can you clarify what it is to be used for?

The Triage flow chart is to be used to determine patient priority for treatment, immediate, delayed or deceased and is not part of the initial or patient assessment. Problem designers should not have a patient with perfusion but no breathing as this indicates a deceased patient on the flow chart.

22. If you have an amputation to an upper extremity, which is a musculoskeletal injury, do you have to apply a sling and swathe?

No, according to the Brady book, page 382 and 383 an amputation is classified as soft tissue injury, not a fracture and just requires to treat the wound. Then you would follow skill sheet for amputation. Brady book page 424, A sling is a type of soft splint.

23. Will the chapter and page number listed in the Statement of Facts be part of the question on the written exam?

No, the chapter and page number are only a reference for where the statement was taken from the Twelfth Edition of the Brady book.

24. According to the new flow chart, a person can be walking but have a sucking chest wound. Where does he fall in triage?
A sucking chest wound is a life threat, and this person would be considered an immediate patient. (The problem writer should not write this into a problem. If a person has a sucking chest wound, he wouldn't be walking by the time the mine rescue team gets there.)
25. If CPR is part of the problem design, do contest officials provide an AED or is it simulated? I do not see it on the required materials list in the rules.
Automated External Defibrillator Training Unit (do not power up) is the last item on the Required Materials List. This is part of the team's equipment and does not matter if CPR is part of the problem design or not.
26. Why have we gotten away from proper bandaging, such as covering the bandage, tucking tails and sling application?
All teams that do not apply proper bandages, tuck or remove tails or apply slings should be docked under the skill sheet for that application and shown prior to removal of the questionable bandage or sling on the field by the judges after the clock is stopped, in accordance with the rules.
27. Why are teams getting by with sloppy bandages as an attempt to save time?
All teams that do not apply proper bandages should be docked under the skill sheet for that application and shown prior to removal on the field. The team will be shown each improper bandage after the clock is stopped by the judges on the field in accordance with the rules.
28. Can the team member holding stabilization release stabilization and go help the team after a c-collar has been applied?
No, In accordance with the skill sheet stabilization must be maintained until the patient is properly secured to the back board.
29. Would the team be discounted for releasing c-spine stabilization if the AED advises Do Not Touch The Patient?
No, All persons must be clear of patient during analyzing and shocking by the AED. (Rule 19 scorecard A)
30. Can you use your legs to immobilize the head so that your hands are free to help your team?
No, The proper technique is to use the hands with the fingers spread to maintain the head in the neutral in line position. (Refer to Brady)
31. What situations constitute a mask being worn, such as the patient having COVID or other respiratory infections or diseases? Will it be in the problem statement or decided by the team?

The 2026 First Aid Rules are for contest purposes only and all teams should use best practices in real world situations. Masks are not required to be worn by teams during the working of the problem and problem designers should not be putting anything in the problem that would require the team to wear masks. Teams will not be discounted if they decide to wear masks.

PRESHIFT

1. Rule #8 – page 13 – Is the Miners Individual Identification Number or MIIN the required foreman’s certificate number?
No, use rule #1 which states that contestants will use 12345 as a certification number if they don’t have a state issued certification. If they do have a state issued certification number, they should use their foreman’s certificate number.
2. Rule #14(A) – page 11 – Rule addresses “permissible condition” for handheld radios. Does “permissible condition: also relate to other mining equipment?
No, this rule matches rule 31(D) in the mine rescue rules.
3. In a Preshift Contest, how is gas migration evaluated when air is introduced into a problem area containing an explosive methane mixture and an ignition source outby that mixture?
Example: If ventilation changes cause fresh air to be introduced into an area where an explosive mixture exists and an ignition source is present somewhere within that explosive range, would the contestant be discounted based on potential for ignition? Or must the methane-air mixture physically pass directly over the ignition source to be discounted?
See figures on next page.
For figure #1, the answer is no.
For figure #2, the answer is yes.
For Figure #3, the answer is no.

Figure #1

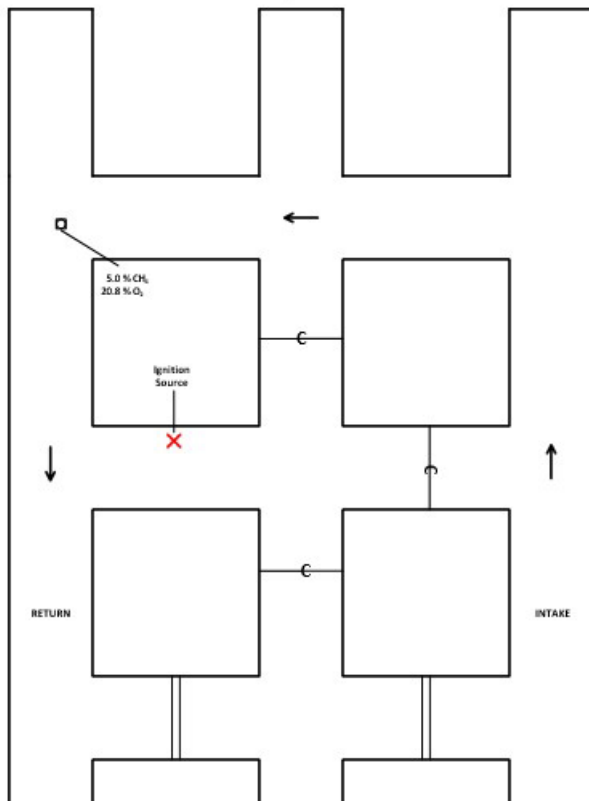


Figure #2

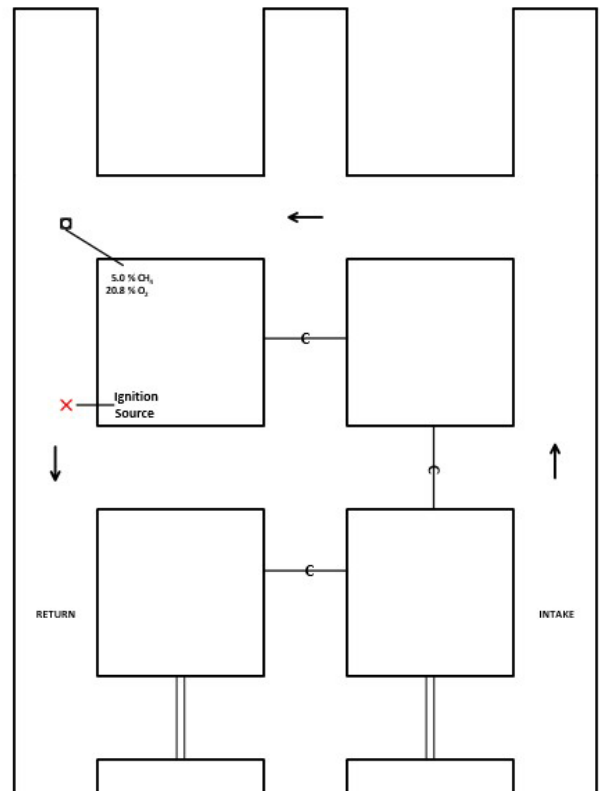
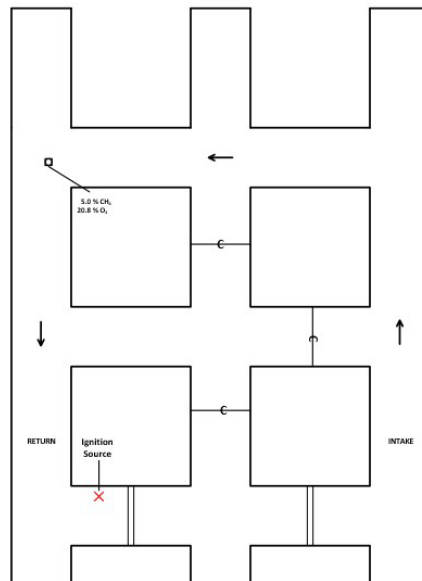


Figure #3



MNM MINE RESCUE

1. Under figure 6 around sufficient supports – If a problem states a team can only carry 3 timbers, can I just set the 3 and recover a patient or do I have to go back and get more? For instance, I find 6 timbers behind a barricade but can only carry 3.
Get them out with the sufficient timbers you have on hand with you at the time
2. Page 24. If a victims statement is listed on a placard (ie, Help!), does that need to be shown on the map?
No
3. If you find 3 posts and have unsafe roof rib to rib and a person in elongated unsafe, do you post to remain systematic or post to the person?
Get the person if sufficient # of posts to reach, then return to systematic exploration.
4. Since miningquiz.com is not working, does anyone know of a mine rescue problem repository available to us?
No, suggest attending contests to get problems and practice.