

The test will be comprised of multiple choice, true or false, and essay questions. The following topics should help candidates prepare for the written exam.

Basic elements of wildland firefighting

- Tools
- Basic elements of fire behavior/fire fighting
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Knowledge of the operation of small gas powered tools

- Chainsaws
- Landscape maintenance equipment
- Safety concerns / personal protective equipment

Safe operation of four wheel drive vehicles and accessories

- Winch operation
- Safe driving habits
- Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) operations

Knowledge of common plant, animal, and aquatic species found in Marin County

- Identification of common native plants and trees, as well as knowledge of associated Latin names
- Identification of common native animals found in Marin County and knowledge of associated Latin names
- Identification of common invasive plant species found in Marin County and knowledge of associated Latin names

Basic elements of trail construction and maintenance

- Identification of trail building tools
- Tree felling and pruning techniques
- Basic construction and carpentry techniques

Map reading

- Understanding the elements of a topographical map
- Basic orienteering skills and wilderness navigation

Basic search and rescue techniques

- Elements of a search

Emergency situations

- Understanding of basic first aid/CPR concepts and practices
- Effective radio communication techniques and etiquette
- Basic understanding of the Incident Command System

Practical

- Identify common native wildlife species of Marin County (common and Latin names)
- Identify common native plant species of Marin County (Common and Latin names)
- Identify common trail building/wildland firefighting tools

Suggested reading material:

1. *Lightly on the Land: The SCA Trail Building and Maintenance Manual* by Birkby, Lucchetti & Tempest
2. *Sunset Magazine's Western Garden Book*
3. *Marin Flora: An Illustrated Manual of the flowering plants, ferns, and conifers of Marin County, California* by Howell, Almeda, Follette, & Best
4. *Invasive Plants of California's Wildlands* by Bosard, Randall and Hoshovsky
5. *Marin County Open Space District Field Guides* <http://www.marincountyparks.org/depts/pk/divisions/open-space/main/fieldguides>
6. *California Invasive Plant Inventory Database* <http://www.cal-ipc.org/paf/>