



**RENSSELAER COUNTY  
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
Opportunities in the Public Service  
PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATION**

**EXAM NUMBER: 72-721**  
**EXAM TITLE: FIRE CAPTAIN**  
**(CITY OF RENSSELAER)**

**EXAM DATE: JUNE 22, 2019**  
**LAST FILING DATE: MAY 23, 2019**

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**NON-REFUNDABLE \$30.00 FILING FEE MUST ACCOMPANY EACH APPLICATION. CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS ONLY. CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED WITH APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED ONLINE ONLY.**

**FIRE CAPTAIN**, Rensselaer County. The resulting eligible list will be used to fill vacancies as they occur.

**SALARY:** \$58,900.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Five (5) years of continuous permanent experience as a Rensselaer Firefighter and successful completion of training required by NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:** Upon appointment the Captain must complete the first line supervisor school at the FDNY Fire academy.

**TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:**

Assist the Chief in the day to day operations of the Fire Department;  
Assist with training of both volunteer and career members of the Fire Department;  
Supervises the activities and duties of firefighters during hour 24 hour tour of duty;  
Maintains discipline of firefighters on his/her shift;  
Directs fire fighters in vital lifesaving procedures and activities;  
Assist with upkeep and maintenance of equipment ensuring that all is in proper order;  
Ensure that reports are done in a timely and effective manner;  
Maintain good public relations with the general public;  
Operates within National Incident Management System (NIMS);  
Performs related clerical and reporting functions;  
Does related work as required within the City of Rensselaer Fire Department rules, regulations, and standard operating guidelines.

**SUBJECT OF EXAMINATION:** Written test will cover knowledge, skills, and/or abilities in such areas as:

1. **Fire prevention;** These questions test for a knowledge of fire prevention methods, principles, practices, and equipment. The questions cover such areas as the following: alarm systems; automatic smoke/fire detectors; automatic sprinklers; standpipes; dealing with building owners and managers; fire hazards; fire prevention education; and inspection of buildings.
2. **Firefighting practices and equipment;** These questions test for a knowledge of firefighting methods, principles, practices, and equipment. The questions cover such areas as the following: aspects of the Incident Management System; building materials and construction types; direction of subordinate firefighters; communications at emergency incidents; accountability; fire cause and origin; building inspections; extinguishing agents and application procedures; fire behavior characteristics; fire suppression; hand and power tools; hazardous materials; weapons of mass destruction; hoses, nozzles, and water streams; ladders and elevating platforms; self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA); fire scene size-up; and ventilation.
3. **On-the-job training of fire personnel;** These questions test for a knowledge of the principles and practices of on-the-job training of fire personnel. The questions cover such areas as determining the necessity for training, selecting appropriate training methods, overcoming obstacles to learning, and evaluating the effectiveness of training.
4. **Preparing written material;** These questions test for the ability to present information clearly and accurately, and to organize paragraphs logically and comprehensibly. For some questions, you will be given information in two or three sentences followed by four restatements of the information. You must then choose the best version. For other questions, you will be given paragraphs with their sentences out of order. You must then choose, from four suggestions, the best order for the sentences.
5. **Rescue techniques and basic emergency medical response;** These questions test for a knowledge of rescue techniques and basic emergency medical treatment. You will be presented with brief descriptions of various fire, rescue, and personal injury and illness situations. Each situation will be followed by one or more questions that cover such areas as the following: triage; bleeding; broken bones; burns; respiratory failure; cardiac failure; rescue-related tools; knot tying; rescue and associated EMS equipment.
6. **Supervision;** These questions test for knowledge of the principles and practices employed in planning, organizing, and controlling the activities of a work unit toward predetermined objectives. The concepts covered, usually in a situational question format, include such topics as assigning and reviewing work; evaluating performance; maintaining work standards; motivating and developing subordinates; implementing procedural change; increasing efficiency; and dealing with problems of absenteeism, morale, and discipline.

**OVER**

The New York State Department of Civil Service has not prepared a test guide for this examination. However, candidates may find information in the publication "General Guide to Written Tests" helpful in preparing for this test. This publication is available online at: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>

## USE OF CALCULATORS IS PROHIBITED FOR THIS EXAMINATION

If you are filing to take exams with Rensselaer County Civil Service and any other Civil Service Agency on the same day, please complete a Cross- Filer form at time of filing. The Cross-Filer form is available at the Rensselaer County website: "[www.rensco.com/employment\\_applications.asp](http://www.rensco.com/employment_applications.asp)."

### GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Each candidate must complete an application form and file it with the Rensselaer County Civil Service Commission, County Office Building, 1600 – 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Troy, New York 12180. Applications should be filed as soon as possible after the announcement of the examination. When writing for applications, forms or information, **SPECIFY BY ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER AND TITLE** of the position for which you wish to apply. You may also obtain an application and examination announcement from the Rensselaer County website at [www.rensco.com](http://www.rensco.com). **BE SURE EVERY QUESTION IS ANSWERED. SUBMISSION OF A RESUME INSTEAD OF A COMPLETED APPLICATION IS UNACCEPTABLE. AN INCOMPLETE APPLICATION MAY BE DISAPPROVED.**
2. Accepted candidates will be notified when and where to appear for examination. No one will be admitted to the examination without the official admission notice. If an application is rejected, you will be notified in writing. The Civil Service Commission does not make formal acknowledgment of receipt of an application. **Call the Civil Service Office if you have not received your notice three (3) days prior to the date of examination.**
3. **SENIORITY CREDITS** will be added to an eligible score as follows: Using as a basis six (6) months of continuous permanent or contingent permanent service in the jurisdiction for which the eligible list is being established as an equivalent to 0.1. No seniority credit will be allowed for service in excess of twenty (20) years.
4. For purposes of claiming veterans credits on a Civil Service examination, an applicant must have received an honorable discharge and have served in the armed forces of the United States at any time during the following periods:

December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946	June 1, 1983 to December 1, 1987*
June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955	October 23, 1983 to November 21, 1983
December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975	December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990*
August 2, 1990 to end of such hostilities	

\*Credit for Lebanon, Grenada and Panama will be limited to those who receive the armed forces expeditionary medal, the navy expeditionary medal or the Marine Corps expeditionary medal.  
Veterans wishing to claim additional credit on the examination must make claim when filing application. All veterans making application for additional credit must file a Photostat copy of their discharge papers with applications. A candidate who fails to establish, by appropriate documentary proof, his eligibility to receive additional credit by the time an eligible list is established, shall **not**, thereafter be granted additional credit on such eligible list.  
Effective January 1, 1998, the State constitution was amended to permit a candidate currently in the armed forces to apply for and be conditionally granted veteran's credit in examination. Any candidate who applies for such credit must provide proof of military status to receive the conditional credit. No credit may be granted after the establishment of the list. It is the responsibility of the candidate to prove appropriate documentary proof indicating that the service was in time of war, as defined in Section 85 of the Civil Service Law, and that the candidate received an honorable discharge or was released under honorable conditions in order to be certified at a score including veteran's credits.
5. In conformance with Section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive an additional ten (10) points in a competitive examination for original appointments in the same municipality in which his or her parent has served. If you are qualified to participate in this examination and are a child of a firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duty in this municipality, please inform this office of this matter when you submit your application for examination. A candidate claiming such credit has a minimum of two (2) months from application deadline to provide the necessary documentation to verify additional credit eligibility. However, no credit may be added after the eligible list has been established.
6. This written examination is prepared and rated by the New York State Department of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23-2 of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State civil Service Rules and Regulations dealing with the rating and review of examinations will apply. **VERIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS** may be investigated and candidates may be called for an interview to determine whether they are qualified for appointment. You may be required to take a medical examination to determine if you are medically and physically capable of performing the duties of the position.
7. Eligible lists will be established in order of final rating for successful candidates and will be established for a period of four (4) years or until the establishment of an appropriate new list.
8. **NOTICE TO CANDIDATES:** Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held solar or battery powered calculators. Cell phone calculators are not permitted. Devices with typewriter keyboards, spell-check, personal digital assistants, address books, language translators, dictionaries or any similar devices are prohibited.
9. **APPLICATION FEE:** A **non-refundable** fee of \$20.00 is required for each separately numbered examination for which you apply. Certain examinations will require a \$30.00 filing fee. **The required examination fee listed on pg.1 must accompany your application(s) in the form of a Check or Money Order** made payable to the **Rensselaer County Civil Service Commission**. Write the examination number(s) on your check or money order. **NO CASH ACCEPTED. Applications submitted online must pay by credit card.** As no refund will be made, you are urged to compare your qualifications carefully with the requirements for admission and file only for those examinations for which you are clearly qualified.
10. **APPLICATION FEE WAIVER:** A waiver of application fee will be allowed if you are unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household. In addition, a waiver of application fee will be allowed if you are determined eligible for Medicaid, or receiving Supplemental Security Income payments or Public Assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Family Assistance or Safety Net Assistance) or are certified Job Training partnership Act/Workforce Investment Act eligible through a State or local social service agency. **ALL CLAIMS FOR APPLICATION FEE WAIVER ARE SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION.** If you can verify eligibility for application fee waiver, you must complete a "Request for Application Fee Waiver and Certification" form and required documents with your application by the close of business on the application deadline as listed on the Examination announcement. You may obtain an Examination Fee Waiver Request and Certification Form online at [www.rensco.com](http://www.rensco.com) or from the Rensselaer County Civil Service Office. An application for examination and/or a Request for Application Fee Waiver and Certification **WILL NOT** be accepted after the last filing date of an examination or without the required documentation.
11. **Religious Accommodations:** Most written tests are held on Saturdays. If you cannot take the test on the announced test date due to a conflict with a religious observance or practice, check the appropriate box under "Religious Accommodations" on your application. We will make arrangements for you to take the test on a different date.

**RENSELAER COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.**