



CITY OF ITHACA  
108 East Green Street Ithaca, New York 14850-5690

OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES / CIVIL SERVICE  
Telephone: 607 / 274-6539 Fax: 607 / 274-6574 E-mail: hrdept@cityofithaca.org

## ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF PROMOTIONAL EXAM NO. 73-243

**APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL:**

October 31, 2019

**EXAMINATION WILL BE HELD:**

December 14, 2019

**ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS:** Applications must be received by the City of Ithaca Human Resources Department no later than 4:30 PM EST on the last filing date indicated above. Postmarks are not accepted. All applications must be original applications, either hard copy or electronically submitted through our online application program. We do not accept faxed applications, e-mailed applications or photocopies of applications.

**APPLICATION MATERIALS REQUIRED:** A City of Ithaca application, copy of driver license, and copy of EMT certification.

**PROMOTIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:** Candidates must be permanently employed in the competitive class as a Fire Lieutenant with the City of Ithaca Fire Department, and must have served continuously on a permanent or contingent permanent basis as a Fire Lieutenant with the City of Ithaca Fire Department for twenty-four (24) months immediately preceding the date of the written test.

### **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Possession of a valid New York State Class D driver license or a valid driver license equivalent to a New York State Class D driver license at the time of appointment and maintenance of said license for the duration of employment.
2. To be eligible for appointment, candidates must possess certification as a New York State Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). To retain the position, the appointee must maintain his or her New York State EMT Certification. If the appointee does not possess an EMT Certification at the time of appointment, he or she must obtain the EMT Certification within two years of appointment as an Assistant Fire Chief. Failure to obtain and maintain an EMT Certification will result in either demotion in rank or dismissal as appropriate.

**BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION:** Applicants may be required to undergo a State and national criminal history background investigation, which will include a fingerprint check, to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification.

**VACANCIES:** Currently, there are no vacancies with the City of Ithaca Fire Department. The eligible list established as a result of this examination may be used to fill this vacancy and any future vacancies that may occur during the life of the eligible list.

## **Assistant Fire Chief Promotional Exam No. 73-243**

### **Page 2**

**SALARY:** 2019: Probationary rate \$99,573, Permanent rate \$104,483  
2020: Probationary rate \$102,312, Permanent rate \$107,356

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** This is a second-line supervisory position responsible for coordinating and directing the overall activities of an assigned shift of the Ithaca Fire Department. The Assistant Fire Chief supervises and directs the activities and actions of subordinate staff at emergency incidents, including fire suppression, emergency medical response, hazardous materials incident response, technical rescue incident response and emergency management operations. The Assistant Fire Chief also supervises and directs the daily activities of shift personnel when they are not engaged in emergency response activities. Assistant Fire Chiefs may also be assigned to supervise one or more specialized functions of the Ithaca Fire Department, such as training or fire prevention. The work is performed under the general direction of the Fire Chief in accordance with established policies and practices, and requires the exercise of good judgment in emergencies. A high degree of responsibility for the protection of lives and property is involved. In the absence of the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief, an Assistant Fire Chief may act for and in place of the Fire Chief. Supervision is exercised over supervisory and direct service firefighting and emergency medical personnel and volunteer firefighting personnel. Does related work as required.

**SCOPE OF THE EXAMINATION:** A test designed to evaluate knowledge, skills and /or abilities in the following areas.

#### **1. Educating and interacting with the public**

These questions test for knowledge of techniques used to interact effectively with individuals and/or community groups, to educate or inform them about topics of concern, to publicize or clarify agency programs or policies, to negotiate conflicts or resolve complaints, and to represent one's agency or program in a manner in keeping with good public relations practices. Questions may also cover interacting with others in cooperative efforts of public outreach or service.

#### **2. 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.

#### **3. Fire administration job simulation exercise**

This job simulation exercise tests for the ability to develop and maintain fire department programs and activities. The questions will be based on a simulated set of administrative issues that a Chief Officer may be asked to analyze and respond to in a working day. The questions cover such areas as organizational relationships, planning, staffing, managing resources, budgeting, public relations, rules and regulations, and political and social concerns impacting the fire service.

#### **4. Fire emergency job simulation exercise**

This job simulation exercise tests for the ability to manage an emergency incident. The emphasis is on command-level actions and decisions in handling the incident from start to finish. The questions will cover such areas as principles and tactics of firefighting, accountability at a fire scene,

## Assistant Fire Chief Promotional Exam No. 73-243

### Page 3

hazardous materials, cause investigation, emergency medical care, community relations, and the incident command system, including interacting with other agencies and the media.

#### 5. Administrative supervision

These questions test for knowledge of the principles and practices involved in directing the activities of a large subordinate staff, including subordinate supervisors. Questions relate to the personal interactions between an upper level supervisor and his/her subordinate supervisors in the accomplishment of objectives. These questions cover such areas as assigning work to and coordinating the activities of several units, establishing and guiding staff development programs, evaluating the performance of subordinate supervisors, and maintaining relationships with other organizational sections.

A Guide for the Written Test for **Fire Chief/Assistant Fire Chief** is available at the New York State website: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>. Candidates not having access to a computer or the internet may request copy of the test guide from the municipal civil service office conducting this examination using the contact information found elsewhere on this announcement.

**NOTE:** Most Civil Service examinations do not require the use of a quiet, hand-held calculator or slide rule; however, candidates have the option of bringing a battery-operated or solar-powered calculator to the test room unless specifically notified that their use is prohibited. Devices with typewriter keyboards, spell checkers, Personal Digital Assistants, Address Books, Language Translators, Dictionaries, or any similar devices are prohibited. **USE OF CALCULATORS IS ALLOWED FOR THIS EXAM.**

**SENIORITY POINTS:** Seniority points will be added to the grades of candidates who receive a passing score of 70 or higher. Seniority points will be computed in accordance with the following schedule:

#### LENGTH OF SERVICE

#### SENIORITY POINTS

Less than 1 year	0 points
1 year up to 6 years	1 point
Over 6 years up to 11 years	2 points
Over 11 years up to 16 years	3 points
Over 16 years up to 21 years	4 points
Over 21 years up to 26 years	5 points
Over 26 years up to 31 years	6 points
Over 31 years up to 36 years	7 points

#### **RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION - CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES - MILITARY MEMBERS:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Applicants whose religious beliefs or military service prevent their taking examinations on the scheduled date and candidates with disabilities who require special accommodations to take the test should indicate the need for special arrangements on their application. Candidates who are called to military service after filing an application should send requests for an alternate test date to the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department before the test date.

\_\_\_\_\_ Military Service Members: If you apply for an examination during the filing period but are on active military duty on the date the examination is scheduled, you may request a military makeup

## Assistant Fire Chief Promotional Exam No. 73-243

### Page 4

examination. Contact the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department for more information. If you are on active duty or discharged after the filing period has begun, you may apply for the examination up to ten days before the test date.

**SECTION 23.2 STATEMENT:** This examination will be prepared and rated in accordance with Section 23(2) of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of New York State Civil Service Law, Rules and Regulations dealing with the preparation and rating of examinations will apply to this examination.

**APPLICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED:** at the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department - 108 East Green Street - Ithaca NY 14850. You may also apply online or download an application at <https://ithaca-portal.mycivilservice.com>.

**TIME AND PLACE OF THE EXAMINATION:** Approved candidates will be notified by mail regarding the time and place of the examination. If notice of approval or disapproval is not received three (3) days prior to the exam date, please call the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department at (607) 274-6539.

**MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY:** If you have applied to take a written test announced by either one or several local jurisdictions (county, town, city) scheduled to be held on the same test date as this written test, you must notify each of the local jurisdictions no later than two weeks before the test date, so they can make arrangements for taking all tests at one test site. All examinations for positions in State government will be held at a State examination center.

**VETERAN'S CREDIT:** Veterans or disabled veterans who are eligible for additional credit must submit an application for veteran's credit with their application for examination or at any time between the dates of their application for examination and the date of the establishment of the resulting eligible list. Applications for veteran's credit are available from this office. Veteran's credits can only be added to a passing score on the examination.

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 examinations. 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 provide appropriate documentary proof indicating that the service was in time of war, as defined in Section 85 of 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.

**ADDITIONAL CREDIT FOR CHILDREN OF FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:** 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 points in a competitive examination for original appointment 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 months from the 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.

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION**

1. Falsification of any part of the "Application for Employment" will result in disqualification.
2. Applicants must answer every question on the application form and make sure that the application is complete in all respects. Incomplete applications will be disapproved.
3. Candidates who wish to take more than one examination must complete the "Application for Employment" for each examination. If you are cross-filing for another examination to be held on the same date, please indicate this on the application and specify the examination title and number, and the jurisdiction offering the other examination.
4. Appointments from an eligible list must be made from the top three candidates willing to accept appointment. The duration of an eligible list may be fixed for a minimum period of one (1) year and a maximum period of four (4) years.
5. It is the responsibility of the candidate to notify, in writing, the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department -108 East Green Street - Ithaca, NY 14850 of any change in address. No attempt will be made to locate candidates who have moved.

Issued by: City of Ithaca Civil Service Commission  
September 26, 2019

The City of Ithaca is committed to Equity and Inclusion. We encourage those with similar values to apply.