

Frequently Asked Questions

(Updated 5/2010)

Special Note: If your friend gets called for an interview and you don't, it is NOT appropriate for you, an acquaintance or a family member to contact DRCOG to ask why you were not chosen to be interviewed. Departments have specific recruitment processes that they follow and an applicant might not fit their process. It doesn't leave a good impression if you call and complain about such matters.

If I want to have the DRCOG test administered to me at my location outside of Colorado, how do I do that? Tests held outside of the state must be set up for groups (2 or more). You must locate a proctor at a community college or other school and they must agree to proctor the test. You then need to send their contact information (name, school, phone number, e-mail address, etc.) to Suzi Walker swalker@drcog.org. That information will be forwarded to the test vendor for approval. Taking the test outside of Colorado will cost you an additional \$50 fee, but this is cheaper than an airfare to Colorado. Note that some proctors may charge a minimal fee to test candidates as well. Always look on our Web site for the dates that your out of state test must be organized by.

After I fill out my application, when will I get a confirmation notice?

Notices are e-mailed to candidates about two weeks after the application deadline—don't look for anything sooner. Everyone that completes an application, background questionnaire and pays the registration fee will be scheduled to test. If you haven't gotten your confirmation notice a week before the test, please contact us at 303 480-6729 right away. Don't wait until the day before the test to call us because we may not be in the office.

Do I need to remember the password I used to create my online application profile? Yes—you need to go back into your application to obtain your score and make any updates to your file. It is your responsibility to keep your file up to date and you will need to use your password to gain access to your online application.

What time is the test? That depends on the amount of people signing up for the exam. If we administer two tests, one will be around 7:30 a.m. and the in the afternoon around 12:30 p.m. If we administer one test, that will most likely start around 9 a.m. We won't know how many tests we will be administering for certain until closer to the deadline date as people register and pay their fee.

If I decide not to test, will I get my money back? No, because when you sign up, you automatically get a seat. When we reserve a facility, we pay for the seats up front.

What should I wear to the test? Casual attire is proper but baseball caps are not allowed inside the testing facility. Don't bring a cell phone or calculator to the test either.

Do I have to be a U.S. citizen to be hired? An applicant for testing must be legally entitled to work in the United States.

If I don't have any certifications, can I take the test? Yes, but having certifications will certainly help you get hired. If you take the test and obtain certifications throughout the year, you can update your file with new information anytime.

Will my out-of-state certifications work in Colorado? To make sure, call 720 852-6735 regarding your firefighter certification and 303 692-2980 for your EMT/Paramedic certification.

Do departments require that I have my EMT certification prior to being hired? Departments prefer you have your certification prior to being hired. You'll find a link on our Web site to the list of EMT schools.

If I want to put myself through a Firefighter 1 academy, where do I go? Contact Red Rocks Community College or Aims Community College for information. Federal Heights Fire Department and North Washington Fire Rescue occasionally offer academies too.

If I fly to Denver to test, which airport do I fly in to? Denver International Airport (DIA).

How far is the testing location from the airport? Most often we test at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Golden, which is 36 miles from DIA.

How many times a year does FIRE test? Right now, twice a year.

Can I take the test more than once in the year? You can, but studies show you may score lower the second time. Each time you test with us, that particular score will remain in the file for a period of one year. For instance, if you take the test one time and get a 75 and take it again in six months and score 80, the 80 does not take the place of the 75. Departments will see both scores.

Is it true that departments look at scores from the most recent test when recruiting, but not at ones from a prior test? No

Can a family member or acquaintance contact you about my file? No—your information is confidential.

What happens after I take the test? What do I do? After you take the test and pass, your name is placed in an eligibility pool of candidates for one year. The member departments can view your score about a week after the test. Make certain your application is current. Departments will pull from the eligibility list throughout the year and may contact you for further testing.

How often do departments look at files? Departments have access to the eligibility pool 24/7 from their locations. They determine which applications to view and this can be done throughout the year.

When will a physical test be scheduled? Departments will contact candidates for further testing. DRCOG does not administer physical tests.

After I take the test how am I notified about my score? At the test you will be told a date when your score will be released. You will need to go back into your online application to retrieve your score so remember what password and e-mail address you used.

Will I be able to review the test to see what questions I missed? No. As a test developer, CWH has both a duty and the right to maintain the confidentiality of their test. As test developers, they are required to maintain the integrity and security of the test for several reasons. For one, their clients' protection so the test is not invalidated and two, for the protection of the individual applicants who apply for the job, so the test is fair to all and no applicants have an advantage in the testing process. Three, for their own copyright protection because it is their business.

What was the average score for the November 2009 test? The average score was 86 and we tested 519 candidates.

Is it okay to have a GED instead of a diploma? Yes.

Do I need to fill out a new online application each time I test? Yes, but if you already have one on file, DRCOG staff can create a copy of that for you. To request a new file, call 303 480-6730.

If I cannot attend the test, what are my options? We allow a onetime deferral of your fee to the next test. To defer your fee, you must call us at least **3 business days** prior to your test date to defer. If you fail to contact us within the required time or fail to show for the test, you will be disqualified from taking the DRCOG exam for a period of six months and will forfeit your testing fee. We don't recommend that you defer unless it's unavoidable. Deferring your test fee to another date is not the best decision if your desire is to acquire a job as a firefighter/EMT because you may miss out on recruitment. Contact 303-480-6729 to defer.

What happens if I don't show up for a scheduled interview with a department? If you have scheduled an interview with a department and find you cannot make it, call them to postpone or cancel the appt. If you just don't show up, your lack of dependability may be noted in your file.

If you have other questions you'd like us to answer, please e-mail questions to swalker@drcog.org.