

Instructions

General information

What is the volunteer firefighters' and ambulance workers' credit?

The volunteer firefighters' and ambulance workers' credit is available to full-year New York State residents who are active volunteer firefighters or volunteer ambulance workers for the entire tax year for which the credit is claimed.

⚠ Caution: For tax year 2008, you **cannot claim** the volunteer firefighters' and ambulance workers' credit if you receive a real property tax exemption that relates to your volunteer service under Real Property Tax Law (RPTL), Article 4, Title 2. However, if the property has multiple owners, the owner(s) whose volunteer service was not the basis of the exemption may be eligible to claim the credit.

If the credit exceeds your tax for the year, any excess will be refunded without interest.

Definitions

Active volunteer firefighter means a person who has been approved by the authorities in control of a duly organized New York State volunteer fire company or New York State volunteer fire department as an active volunteer firefighter of the fire company or department and who is faithfully and actually performing service in the protection of life and property from fire or other emergency, accident or calamity in connection with which the services of the fire company or fire department are required.

Volunteer ambulance worker means an active volunteer member of a New York State ambulance company as specified on a list regularly maintained by the company for purposes of the volunteer ambulance workers' benefit law.

How do I claim the credit?

File Form IT-245 with your 2007 Form IT-201, *Resident Income Tax Return*. If your filing status is ③, *Married filing separate return*, and both you and your spouse qualify for the credit, each spouse must file a separate Form IT-245 with Form IT-201.

Filling in your tax forms

For complete information on how to fill in New York State scannable income tax forms, the *Privacy notification*, or if you need help contacting the Tax Department, see the instructions for Form IT-201.

Do not attach this form to your return unless you are claiming the credit.

Specific instructions

Step 2 – Determine eligibility

If your filing status is ① *Single*, ③ *Married filing separate return*, ④ *Head of household*, or ⑤ *Qualifying widower*, complete lines 1 and 2. If your filing status is ② *Married filing joint return*, complete lines 1, 2, and 3.

Step 3 – Enter qualifying information

If you are an active volunteer for both a fire company/department and an ambulance company, enter the qualifying information for either the fire company/department or the ambulance company. Do not enter the information for both.

