



# Emergency Medical Technician

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**Job Description:** Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) give care to ill or injured people. If patients need more care, EMTs drive them to medical facilities.

*Gross Monthly Income:*

**\$2,600**

## **Wages:**

Average median yearly pay is about \$107,000 a year in Utah.

**Schedule:** May work days, evening, nights, or weekends. Emergency services are available 24 hours a day.



## **Advancement:**

Emergency medical technicians advance by taking additional training. To advance in this field, EMTs must be willing to move to other cities.

Usually paramedics advance to positions that do not include fieldwork. A paramedic with leadership skills may advance to supervisor, operations manager, or executive director of emergency services.

Some EMTs and paramedics become instructors or dispatchers. Those who enjoy forming relationships may move into selling emergency medical equipment. Some may decide that they want to receive further medical training. They may attend college to become registered nurses, physician assistants, or doctors.

## **Education & Experience:**

- ◆ Completed High School
- ◆ Driver's license
- ◆ Complete an approved emergency medical technician program
- ◆ Be certified

## **High**

### **School Courses:**

- ◆ Anatomy & Physiology
- ◆ Driver Education
- ◆ Health Education
- ◆ Nursing
- ◆ Introduction to Health Care
- ◆ Safety and First Aid

## **Work Conditions:**

- ◆ High level of social interaction. Constantly talk with patients, parents, and medical staff
- ◆ Word daily with patients who have diseases or infections
- ◆ Must be good at working with children, who can be cranky and unreasonable.
- ◆ Must be very exact and accurate in performing their job.

**Travel:** Travel can be part of your every day routine on the ambulance. Can be very dangerous.

## **Job Outlook:**



Small

## **Hours a Week:**

**50**

**Leisure Time:**

**Low**

## **Knowledge:**

- ◆ Medicine & Dentistry
- ◆ Customer & Personal Service
- ◆ English Language
- ◆ Education & Training
- ◆ Public Safety & Security
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Personnel & Human Resources
- ◆ Therapy & Counseling
- ◆ Psychology

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## Overview

Unfortunately, most of us experience some kind of medical emergency during our lives. It can be anything from a broken bone to a car accident. Things happen, ambulances are called, and thankfully doctors and nurses are there to treat us and help us heal. In fact, most of us thank the doctor for their help. Yet, they were not the first people to treat us. EMTs are usually the first on the scene and in many cases, save people's lives before they ever see a doctor.

EMTs answer calls from dispatchers and learn where to go. They drive to the scene of emergencies and examine the injured. They determine the nature and extent of the injury or illness and record patients' vital signs. They may also talk to other emergency personnel, such as police and fire departments, if they are needed at the scene.

EMTs try to determine if patients have preexisting conditions, such as diabetes. Next, they give emergency care. They note patients' reactions to drugs and care. EMTs may use equipment such as electrocardiographs (EKGs) to monitor patients. Occasionally patients are trapped in cars or buildings. EMTs free them or provide care while others free the patients. In some cases, EMTs must use emergency equipment, such as defibrillators and resuscitators. They may also give emergency drugs and perform intravenous procedures.

EMTs transport patients to medical facilities as soon as they can. They put patients on stretchers to move them to the ambulance. They make sure patients can't move so they don't injure themselves more. While one EMT drives, the other monitors patients and gives additional medical care. They may call ahead to alert the medical staff. EMTs may talk with doctors to get advice about what medications to give patients. At the medical center, EMTs transfer patients to the emergency room. They report the status of patients to emergency room staff. They record what treatment was given on patients' charts. EMTs may stay and provide additional help or information. After patients are delivered, EMTs replace supplies and check equipment. They also clean and decontaminate the ambulances.

There are three levels of training for EMTs. The more training EMTs have, the more care they can give to victims.

Pathway:

***Health Science***