



Village Ambulance Service

Community Education & Training Programs

Emergency Medical Technician

What is an EMT?

The Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Course teaches initial evaluation, treatment and transport of patients with medical and/or trauma related problems. Students learn to recognize and provide initial care for ailments including, but not limited to, shock, heart problems, breathing problems, strokes, burns, diabetes, drowning and accidents.

EMTs are the foundation of American pre-hospital emergency medical care. For medical emergencies, they provide rapid response, initial evaluation and care, and transport to an appropriate medical facility. They also provide non-emergency transportation for patients who are bedridden and/or require continuous monitoring and basic-level care.

Why take an EMT course?

The primary reason for an individual to take an EMT course is to work full or part-time on an ambulance. However, not all people who take the course work on ambulances.

For example, one might take the course because he/she is already certified as a first responder (police officer, fire fighter) and is in search of more emergency care knowledge. Others may enroll because they want to work as a police officer or fire fighter and are preparing to take the Civil Service Exam (a certified EMT is awarded 1 extra point on the Civil Service Exam score).

Other people may take the course because they wish to be part of the emergency response team at their job, or to volunteer for services like the American Red Cross.

What are my job options once I become a certified EMT?

Only when you have successfully completed the course and passed the National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) cognitive and psychomotor exams will you then be able to work as an EMT.

EMTs are able to work in many capacities. Some people choose to work "in the streets" primarily dealing with emergency or disaster calls. Many US cities and towns contract private ambulance services to provide emergency medical services (EMS) for their area. This may be a great way to transition right into "the streets". Some areas utilize the fire or police departments as their EMS provider. For this you may be required to take the Civil Service Exam before becoming an employee of that department.

Conversely, some newly certified EMTs prefer to take the "low-key" approach, opting to work in a "non-emergency" role. This can be achieved by working for an ambulance service that primarily deals with non-emergency patients, like routine transfers from one facility to another.

For those looking to practice in a more controlled environment, many hospitals hire EMTs to work in their emergency rooms. Here the EMT would assist medical staff with clinical or non-invasive skill provision.

Whatever your goal, working as an EMT is one of the most rewarding careers possible.

Will I be certified after I take the course?

NO. This course will prepare you to take the NREMT psychomotor and cognitive examinations. Upon successful completion of the course (a course average of 70% or higher, and successfully completing all practical skills) the student can then apply to take either the psychomotor or cognitive exam, in no particular order. Only the NREMT can certify a student as an EMT. Massachusetts reciprocity can be obtained by applying and paying any applicable fees to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.