



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Individuals working in this field manage medical emergencies. They act as medical liaisons, provide urgent care, and transport patients to appropriate health care facilities.

Careers within this section include:

Emergency Medical Dispatcher

Emergency Medical Technician—Basic/Intermediate/Paramedic



Emergency Medical Dispatcher

What would I do?

Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMDs) are the first persons to receive incoming emergency calls. They prioritize incoming calls by severity through a unified system and determine the appropriate resources necessary for adequate response to the situation. When managing incoming calls, the Emergency Medical Dispatcher must carefully question the caller to quickly determine the type of emergency, extent of injuries or illness, geographic location, and appropriate actions to take.

The Emergency Medical Dispatcher will remain in contact with the caller and the Emergency Medical Service providers until they are in physical contact with each other. The EMD is often a link between medical staff at a hospital and Emergency Medical Technicians on the scene or en route from the scene. EMDs make decisions based on medically approved protocols. They have predetermined itemized steps for most situations and are able to relay this information to get the most effective care.

Where would I work?

Emergency Medical Dispatchers work in a variety of settings including fire, police, or EMS stations; hospitals; or area dispatch centers.

What would I earn?

\$23,000–43,000

What do I need to know?

Many EMDs are initially hired as basic communication officers and then receive medical-dispatch training on the job. State EMDs must be certified through a state-approved program. Local agencies are encouraged to provide medical training to their communicators. Increasingly, public safety dispatchers receive training in stress and crisis management as well as family counseling. This training helps them to provide effective services to others. At the same time, it helps them manage the stress involved in their work.

What schools can I attend?

The New Hampshire Bureau of Emergency Communications offers a training program for

Emergency Medical Dispatchers. For further details, contact the bureau (see below). Certification, followed by online courses and on-the-job training, is often the best training available in this field.

Where can I find more information?

Association of Public-Safety Communication Officials
351 N. Williamson Boulevard
Daytona Beach, FL 32114-1112
(386) 322-2500
(888) 272-6911
www.apcointl.org

National Academy of Emergency Medical Dispatch
139 East South Temple, Suite 530
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
(801) 359-6916
(800) 960-6236
www.emergencydispatch.org

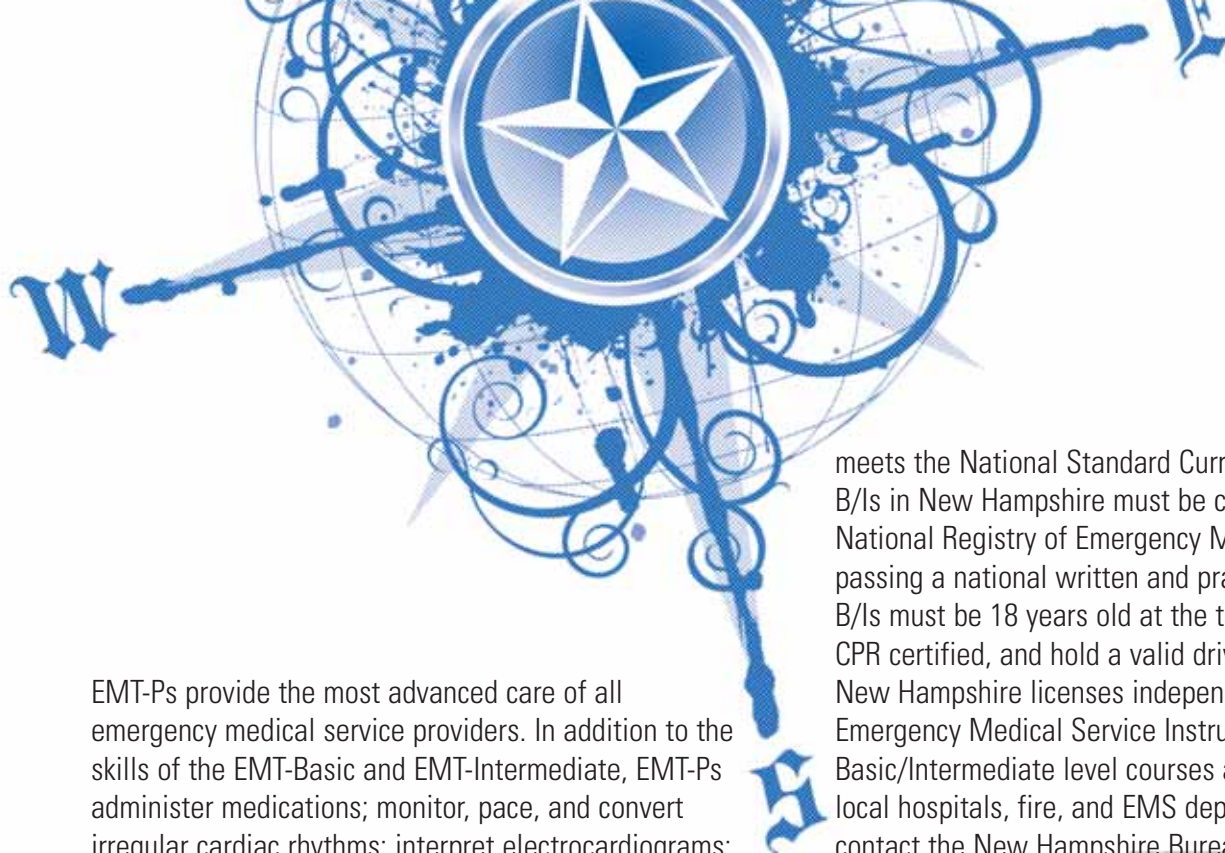
New Hampshire Bureau of Emergency Communications
10 Hazen Drive, Room 105
Concord, NH 03305
(603) 271-6911
(800) 806-1242
www.state.nh.us/nh911

Emergency Medical Technician— Basic/Intermediate /Paramedic

What would I do?

The training of an Emergency Medical Technician—Paramedic (EMT-P) is the same as an EMT-Basic/Intermediate, plus additional lifesaving skills. Both EMT-B/Is/EMT-Ps administer initial care for sick and injured patients requiring immediate medical attention. EMTs are trained in the emergency treatment of traumatic injuries (e.g. traffic accidents, poisonings) as well as medical emergencies (e.g. cardiac arrest, emergency childbirth). EMTs are often the first responders to violent and potentially dangerous situations. They are also the first to provide lifesaving care.

EMTs are responsible for the overall management of the medical scene, including safety for other emergency medical providers, patients, and bystanders.



EMT-Ps provide the most advanced care of all emergency medical service providers. In addition to the skills of the EMT-Basic and EMT-Intermediate, EMT-Ps administer medications; monitor, pace, and convert irregular cardiac rhythms; interpret electrocardiograms; and intubate patients with airway problems. EMT-B/Is /EMT-Ps are also involved in many community-based health awareness and prevention initiatives, including blood pressure and glucose testing clinics, teddy bear clinics for kids and public access defibrillation programs.

Where would I work?

EMT-Ps receive the highest level of training and have the most versatile working environments in the field of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Most EMT-Ps are paid personnel working in hospital emergency departments, clinics, industrial settings, intercept units, or fire/EMS departments. They also work as on-call staff or volunteers for their local community Emergency Medical Services. Most EMT-B/Is are paid, on-call staff, or they are volunteers for their local community Emergency Medical Services (EMS). EMTs work both indoors and outdoors, in all environments and weather conditions. The job requires long periods of bending, kneeling, standing, lifting and walking.

What would I earn?

\$20,000–33,000

What do I need to know?

Emergency Medical Technicians, at the basic and intermediate and paramedic level require certification from a state-approved education training program that

meets the National Standard Curriculum (NSC). EMT-B/Is in New Hampshire must be certified through the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians by passing a national written and practical exam. EMT-B/Is must be 18 years old at the time of the exam, be CPR certified, and hold a valid driver's license.

New Hampshire licenses independent and institutional Emergency Medical Service Instructors; therefore, EMT-Basic/Intermediate level courses are often offered at local hospitals, fire, and EMS departments. Please contact the New Hampshire Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (listed below) for a complete listing of EMT courses offered throughout New Hampshire.

What schools can I attend?

New England EMS Institute
New Hampshire Technical Institute
Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities (SOLO)
University of New Hampshire

Where can I find more information?

National Association of Emergency
Medical Technicians
PO Box 1400
Clinton, MS 39060-1400
(601) 924-7744
(800) 346-2368
www.naemt.org

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians
PO Box 29233
6610 Busch Boulevard
Columbus, OH 43229
(614) 888-4484
www.nremt.org