

People's lives often depend on the quick reaction and competent care of **Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)** and **Paramedics**. Incidents as varied as automobile accidents, heart attacks, drownings, childbirth, and gunshot wounds all require immediate medical attention. EMTs and paramedics provide this vital attention as they care for and transport the sick or injured to a medical facility. Depending on the nature of the emergency, EMTs and paramedics typically are dispatched to the scene by a 911 operator and often work with police and fire department personnel. Once they arrive, they determine the nature and extent of the patient's condition while trying to ascertain whether the patient has preexisting medical problems. Following strict procedures, they give appropriate emergency care and transport the patient.

The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) registers emergency medical service (EMS) providers at four levels: The lowest level—**First Responders**—are trained to provide basic emergency medical care because they tend to be the first persons to arrive at the scene of an incident. **The EMT-Basic**, also known as EMT-1, represents the first component of the emergency medical technician system. An EMT-1 is trained to care for patients on accident scenes and on transport by ambulance to the hospital under medical direction. The EMT-1 has the emergency skills to assess a patient's condition and manage respiratory, cardiac, and trauma emergencies. **The EMT-Intermediate** (EMT-2 and EMT-3) has more advanced training that allows administration of intravenous fluids, use of manual defibrillators to give lifesaving shocks to a stopped heart, and use of advanced airway techniques and equipment to assist patients experiencing respiratory emergencies. **EMT-Paramedics** (EMT-4) provide the most extensive pre-hospital care. In addition to the procedures already described, paramedics may administer drugs orally and intravenously, interpret electrocardiograms (EKGs), perform endotracheal intubations, and use monitors and other complex equipment.

Salary Information:

- EMS Paramedic, Associate in Applied Science:
\$33,750 Median Salary (Follow-up Study, Monroe Community College Graduates, 2008)
- Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic:
\$31,980 Median Salary (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008)
- **EMT/Paramedics for the Rochester, New York area:**
\$29,400 Median Salary (Career One Stop, 2008)

[*Salary varies based on education/advanced degree, work-experience & setting/location.]

Additional Information:

- National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians:
www.nremt.org

