

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics care for the sick or injured in emergency medical settings. People's lives often depend on their quick reaction and competent care. EMTs and paramedics respond to emergency calls, performing medical services and transporting patients to medical facilities.

A 911 operator sends EMTs and paramedics to the scene of an emergency, where they often work with police and firefighters. For more information, see the profiles on [police and detectives](#) and [firefighters](#).

DUTIES

EMTs and paramedics typically do the following:

- Respond to 911 calls for emergency medical assistance, such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or bandaging a wound
- Assess a patient's condition and determine a course of treatment
- Follow guidelines that they learned in training and that they receive from physicians who oversee their work
- Use backboards and restraints to keep patients still and safe in an ambulance for transport
- Help transfer patients to the emergency department of a healthcare facility and report their observations and treatment to the staff
- Create a patient care report; documenting the medical care they gave the patient
- Replace used supplies and check or clean equipment after use

When taking a patient to the hospital, one EMT or paramedic may drive the ambulance while another monitors the patient's vital signs and gives additional care. Some paramedics work as part of a helicopter's flight crew to transport critically ill or injured patients to a hospital.

EMTs and paramedics also take patients from one medical facility to another. Some patients may need to be transferred to a hospital that specializes in treating their injury or illness or to a facility that provides long-term care, such as a nursing home.

If a patient has a contagious disease, EMTs and paramedics decontaminate the interior of the ambulance and may need to report these cases to the proper authorities.

The specific responsibilities of EMTs and paramedics depend on their level of training and the state they work in. The [National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians](#) (NREMT) provides national certification



SALARY INFORMATION

Location	2018				
	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
California	\$25,410	\$28,840	\$36,970	\$54,280	\$71,480

*Pay period based on yearly amount.

EMPLOYMENT
OUTLOOK



Increasing growth rate estimated to be **21%**



1,580 estimated annual job openings

of EMTs and paramedics at four levels: EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate (which has two levels, respectively called 1985 and 1999), and Paramedic. Some states, however, have their own certification programs and use different titles.

The specific tasks or procedures EMTs and paramedics are allowed to perform at any level vary by state.

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

- Chiropractors
- Dentists, General
- Radiation Therapists
- Nursing Assistants ☀️
- Orderlies
- Ambulance Drivers and Attendants, Except Emergency Medical Technicians ☀️

