

# Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic



## What do they do?

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics help people who are sick or injured, usually in emergency situations like car accidents or natural disasters. They often work with firefighters or police officers.

Paramedics have more extensive training than EMTs. They can give medications and use more complex medical equipment. Both careers are stressful, physically difficult, and can involve life-or-death situations.

## Where do they work?

Most EMTs and Paramedics work with an ambulance service and care for patients during transport to a hospital. Most Paramedics work for an ambulance service, while others may work with a fire department or at a hospital which has their own ambulance service.

## Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for EMTs and Paramedics is \$34,320.



## Education:

### Emergency Medical Technician:

A formal EMT training course is required. Additional training is required to drive an ambulance.

### Paramedic:

Paramedics must complete 1,200 hours of instruction and become certified and licensed before they can begin working.

### EMT and Paramedic Schools in Madison:

Madison Area Technical College: [www.madisoncollege.edu](http://www.madisoncollege.edu)

High School students interested in applying to EMT programs should take courses in anatomy and physiology.

## Accreditation:

Education programs for EMTs are accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of Education Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP).



[www.coaemsp.org](http://www.coaemsp.org)

## Professional Associations:

Once certified, EMTs can join the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians. You can learn more by going to their website:



[www.naemt.org](http://www.naemt.org)

In Wisconsin, EMTs can also join the Wisconsin EMS Association. You can find additional resources by visiting their website:

[www.wisconsinems.com](http://www.wisconsinems.com)

## Certification & License:

The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians certifies EMTs.

[www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)

In addition to national certification, EMTs must also be licensed by state. In Wisconsin, licensing is handled by the Department of Health Services:

[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ems/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ems/index.htm)



## Potential for Advancement:

EMTs can receive additional training and become licensed in the following areas of emergency care:

EMT-Intermediate Technician	(100 hours of training)
EMT-Intermediate	(335 hours of training)
Paramedic	(1,000 hours of training)

Paramedics who work with a fire department may advance in rank while others may become dispatchers. With additional training a Paramedic could work with a helicopter and flight crew. Some Paramedics move into education, teaching new emergency services personnel.

A Paramedic could also continue their education to become a Critical Care Transport Paramedic. Prerequisites include:

- Minimum of 21 years old.
- Valid EMT-Paramedic license/certification with at least three years experience and a recommendation.
- Training in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) and other similar courses

## Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for EMTs and Paramedics is expected to grow 15 percent between 2016-2026, which is much faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2017-18 Edition*, EMTs and Paramedics, [www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/emts-and-paramedics.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/emts-and-paramedics.htm)

