

Emergency Medical Technician

SUMMARY OF PROFESSION

Whether the emergency is a car accident, a heart attack or an unscheduled childbirth, emergency medical technicians (EMTs) are usually the first on the scene. They arrive in specially equipped vehicles to provide immediate medical care and to transport victims safely and quickly to a medical facility.

All EMTs may open airways, restore breathing, control bleeding, treat for shock, administer oxygen, stabilize fractures, bandage wounds, and manage emotionally disturbed patients in the field. EMT-Paramedics can administer IV fluids and use advanced techniques to start a stopped heart or assist a patient's breathing. EMT-Paramedics may also administer drugs, interpret electrocardiograms, perform intubations, and use monitors or other complex equipment.

EMTs need to be quick thinkers with the emotional and physical strength to calm patients, react to unpredictable environmental factors, and diagnose and treat victims in a variety of situations. If you thrive on daily challenge, you may have what it takes to be as successful EMT.

TRAINING

EMT initial training in Colorado that leads to State Certification is provided by state recognized EMT-Basic Training Centers. These programs are regulated through Department of Public Health and Environment regulation **6-CCR-1015-3, Sections 3 and 4.**

Colorado recognized EMT-Basic Training Centers are required to present a course of study that, at a minimum, contains all material found in the most recent EMT-Basic National Standard Curriculum available for download from the **EMS Division of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.**

Courses average 160 contact hours presented over a 2-6 month time frame. Course costs average \$560/student. State recognized programs graduated 1,873 students in calendar year 2006.

SALARY INFORMATION

Earnings of EMTs depend on the employment setting and geographic location as well as the individual's training and experience. Median annual earnings of EMTs and paramedics were \$25,310 in May 2004. The middle 50 percent earned between \$19,970 and \$33,210.

CAREER OUTLOOK

Employment of EMTs is expected to grow faster than average for all occupations through 2008. Much of this growth will occur as positions change from volunteer to paid and as the population grows, particularly older age groups that are the greatest users of emergency medical services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/em/CertificationEducation/certification/certrequire.html> or contact the Certification Program, 303.692.2980, cdphe.emtcert@state.co.us.

National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians: <http://www.naemt.org>