

Newspaper in Education Presents

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BROUGHT TO YOU BY MANATEE COUNTY'S MAGNET SCHOOLS & ADULT CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION



Student Interview:

Celebrating a new career

By Vickie Miller

After moving from London 13 years ago, Simon Warner decided to make a career change. He became a volunteer for Manatee County EMS and graduated from the EMT program at Manatee Technical Institute. Now, he is celebrating his new job as an EMT for Manatee County Emergency Medical Services.

Simon wanted a career that was worthwhile, exciting, and challenging. He found what he was looking for. In fact, he has learned that even the simplest tasks are complicated; for example, the "art" of putting someone on a stretcher is not as easy as it looks, he said. Combine that with medical equipment, medications, and life-saving procedures, and you can see that it does get complicated.

His interest in biology and the medical field has been satisfied in his newly chosen career. By continuing his education in the Paramedic program at MTI, Simon is also learning to recognize and diagnose symptoms. He finds it fascinating to understand the effects that certain procedures and medications can have on life-threatening symptoms. Simon loves living in Manatee County and hopes to serve the community for many years.

Instructor Interview:

A Life Saving Instructor

By Vickie Miller

The EMT instructor at Manatee Technical Institute, Jim Cena, says that the number one quality needed for someone working in the emergency medical field is "caring." EMTs and Paramedics must have an ability to empathize with their patients. As far as the other skills required for this career, Mr. Cena said that those can be learned. However, he frequently stresses to his students the realization that a person's life may be dependent on their abilities.

Mr. Cena was certified as an EMT in 1972 and had to learn and adapt to this advancing, highly technical career. When he first became an EMT, CPR was not even a known technique. The main job of ambulance drivers was to pick up patients and transport them to the hospital. By the time he retired as an EMT, he had been trained to perform advanced life saving skills. He said that the most rewarding thing about working as an EMT was "knowing that what you did personally saved someone's life."



Simon Warner



Jim Cena

This week's InquiziKidz explores careers as an EMT or Paramedic

Saving Lives Every Day

by Dr. Mary Cantrell

When you see an ambulance rushing past you with its lights flashing and siren blaring, do you ever think that maybe being a part of this rescue team was something you would like to do? Wouldn't it be a wonderful job to be in the business of saving lives? People who provide pre-hospital care are called emergency medical technicians, and they do save lives.

Not so long ago here in the United States, if someone was in a car wreck and needed to be transported to a hospital, the only way that the injured person could be moved lying down was to call the local funeral home and have them send a hearse. Can you image being seriously injured in a car wreck, and a hearse arriving to transport you? I think I would think that I must be dead!

About 50 years ago, there was little or no pre-hospital care provided. Beginning in the 1960s, two important things happened to improve the quality of pre-hospital care: the American Heart Association began teaching cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the United States Department of Transportation was charged with the responsibility of developing and upgrading pre-hospital care. Even though each state controls its own emergency medical services (EMS), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration sets the standards.

When an emergency happens, EMS is contacted; the most effective way is by phone dialing 9-1-1. This is a universal number and is used to contact police, fire, rescue, EMS, and others. This number should only be used in an emergency.

When an ambulance responds to a 9-1-1 call here in Manatee County, there is a team of at least two professionals in the ambulance. Generally, one is an Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B), and the other is an Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P). The EMT-B is most frequently identified as an EMT. The EMT-P is most frequently identified as a Paramedic; this requires the most training. A Paramedic provides advance life support. These two levels of training, which are recognized throughout the United States, function under the direction of a medical doctor.

In the back of a modern ambulance, every bit of space is used to provide the EMS team with the equipment and supplies they need to save lives. The Paramedic can start IV lines to provide medication to an injured person, The Paramedic can also put a tube down a person's throat into the lungs to provide oxygen; this is called intubation. They have the equipment to restart the human heart. The back of all ambulances in Manatee County have the equipment and supplies stored in the same location. This enables the team to locate exactly what they need without looking in different storage areas. In an emergency, every second counts.

The first hour after a person is hurt is referred to as the "Golden Hour." The proper care during the Golden Hour can make the difference in whether or not a person survives and the quality of the survival. The EMS teams also talk about the "Platinum 10 Minutes." This refers to the goal of spending 10 minutes from arriving on the scene until the injured person is safely moved to the back of the ambulance for transport to the hospital. During the transport to the hospital, the EMS team is in contact with the hospital. They tell the hospital among other things the type of injury, what steps they have taken, and their estimated time of arrival at the hospital.

If you would like to be a part of team that saves lives, consider being an EMT or a Paramedic.



Discover the Future

Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics work in a variety of settings including:

- Ambulances
- Fire Departments
- Hospitals
- Doctor Offices
- Day Care Centers
- Dispatch Centers
- Race Tracks
- Theme Parks
- Olympic Games

Professional Sports' Events

For more career information see your school counselor and get information on-line at:

- <http://jobstar.org/tools/career/spec-car.cfm>
- OR
- <http://www.acinet.org/acinet/default.asp>



explore it

What to do to prepare for a career as an EMT or Paramedic:

1. Stay in school and receive a high school diploma.
2. Take courses in science, biology, and anatomy.
3. Get certified in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).
4. Maintain a healthy life style and stay drug free.
5. Consider enrolling in the health academy at Manatee High School. Through this program you may be eligible to shadow EMTs and Paramedics and do ride time on the ambulance. Contact Ms. Sollenberger, Health Academy Coordinator, at 714-7300, extension 2078 for more information.
6. In your senior year of high school apply to the EMT program at Manatee Technical Institute.

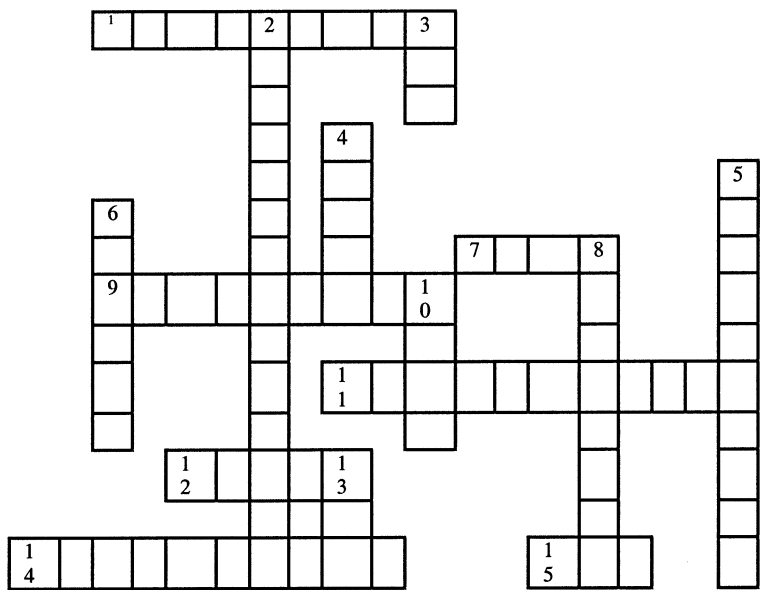
To apply you must attend an information session to receive all application materials. Call 752-8100, extension 225 for a list of dates and times. After completing the EMT program and becoming state certified you will be eligible to enroll in the Paramedic program.

ACROSS

1. Provides advanced pre-hospital care
7. EMTs provide ____ when you need it.
9. Used to transport injured to hospital today
11. Process of passing a tube into the body.
12. Initials of group that sets the EMS national standards
14. 9-1-1 is the _____ number to call in an emergency
15. Initials of system that provides emergency pre-hospital care and ambulance transport to hospitals.

DOWN

2. Title of person under whose direction EMTs and Paramedics provide services (2 words)
3. Life-saving provision of artificial ventilation and external chest compressions
4. Sound ambulances use to alert other drivers
5. First 60 minutes after an accident
6. Used to transport injured in mid-20th Century
8. First 10 minutes EMS spends with injured
10. Initials of emergency medical personal trained at basic level
13. Initials of organization that began teaching CPR during the middle of the 20th Century



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- Daughtrey Preparatory Magnet
- Harlee Middle Magnet
- Johnson Middle Magnet
- Lee Middle Magnet



- Lincoln Middle Magnet
- Manatee Elementary Magnet
- Rowlett Elementary Magnet
- Tillman Elementary Magnet
- Wakeland Elementary Magnet

- www.bls.gov/oco/ocos101.htm
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