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**Education Today / Career Tomorrow**

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**Emergency Medical Technician**

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, slips and falls, childbirth, and gunshot wounds all require immediate medical attention. EMTs and paramedics provide this vital service as they care for and transport the sick or injured to a medical facility.

In an emergency, EMTs and paramedics are typically dispatched by

a 911 operator to the scene, where they often work with police and fire fighters.

Once they arrive, EMTs and paramedics assess the nature of the patient's condition while trying to determine whether the patient has any pre-existing medical conditions. Following medical protocols and guidelines, they provide appropriate emergency care and, when necessary, transport the patient.

EMTs and paramedics may use special equipment, such as backboards, to

immobilize patients before placing them on stretchers and securing them in the ambulance for transport to a medical facility. These workers generally work in teams. During the transport of a patient, one EMT or paramedic drives while the other monitors the patient's vital signs and gives additional care as needed.

Source:  
*The Occupational Outlook Handbook*

**Job Outlook**

Employment of emergency medical technicians is expected to grow faster than the average.

Full-time paid EMTs and paramedics will be needed to replace unpaid volunteers. Also, many job openings will arise from growth and from the need to replace workers who leave the occupation.

There also will be a demand for part-time EMTs and paramedics in rural areas and smaller metropolitan areas.

Job opportunities should be best in private ambulance services.

**Money Matters**

**Career:** Emergency Medical Technician

**Job Description:** Responds to an emergency call, assesses the situation, obtains a basic medical history and physical examination of the patient, and provides emergency care at the scene and during transit to the hospital. Utilizes necessary medical equipment to treat the patient and ascertains the extent of their injuries or illness.

**Salary:** \$22,000-\$35,000

For more information on how to start your career as an EMT, please contact:

Career Counselor Kathy Matthews  
 (941) 752-8100 ext. 227  
 matthewk@manateeschools.net

**Education Needed**

A high school diploma is usually required to enter a formal emergency medical technician training program. Training is offered at progressive levels: EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, and EMT-Paramedic.

At the EMT-Basic level, coursework emphasizes emergency skills, such as managing respiratory, trauma, and cardiac emergencies, and patient assessment. The program provides instruction and practice in dealing with bleeding, fractures, airway obstruction, cardiac arrest, and emergency childbirth. Students learn how to use and maintain common emergency equipment, such as backboards, suction devices, splints, oxygen delivery systems, and stretchers.

At the EMT-Intermediate level, training requirements vary by State. Students learn advanced skills such the use of advanced airway devices, intravenous fluids, and some medications.

The most advanced level of training for this occupation is EMT-Paramedic. At this level, the caregiver receives training in anatomy and physiology as well as advanced medical skills.

EMTs and paramedics should be emotionally stable, have good dexterity, agility, and physical coordination, and be able to lift and carry heavy loads. They also need good eyesight with accurate color vision.

*It's a Matter of Perspective*

"Public Service is constantly expanding. There is always going to be a demand for Public Service workers, even if the economy is questionable. There are so many career choices in the EMT field—a graduate can work in EMS, a doctor's office, for private ambulances, or a hospital, for example. There are also many different options such as trauma, ER, or dispatch. Anyone can injure a person, but it takes a special person to help." - Jim Cena

"I am currently a fire fighter with the Cedar Hammock department. I am taking the EMT refresher course at Manatee Technical Institute to maintain my certification. In class, we are reviewing blood pressure and checking vital signs, all information that I need to know when I arrive on the scene of an accident and I am giving medical attention. I enjoy helping people and the training I receive at MTI will help me continue to do so." - Michael Sheets

Teacher

Student

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