

EMT / PARAMEDIC

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics (MICPs) are called “pre-hospital providers” since they usually provide emergency medical care until arriving at a clinic or hospital. The environment in which EMTs and paramedics work is physically, emotionally, and intellectually challenging.

At each progressive level of certification or licensure, the roles and responsibilities of the caregiver increase. All EMTs are taught to assess the emergency scene, control bleeding, apply splints, assist with childbirth, administer oxygen, and perform CPR and other basic life support skills. An EMT-I may assist a patient with medications their doctor has given them for chest pain, asthma, or allergic reactions. EMT-II personnel may also use devices to breathe for people who have lost consciousness, place needles in people’s veins, and provide certain medications for diabetic emergencies, dehydration or bleeding, and drug overdose. Those at the EMT-III level can also use electronic heart monitors and deliver shocks to restart the heart of patients whose hearts have stopped due to a heart attack. The medications given by the EMT-III assist them in improving the chances of survival for individuals who have suffered a heart attack. MICPs have the most training and expansive scope of authorized activities. They administer more emergency medications and perform a wider variety of procedures.

Where do EMTs work in Alaska?



In rural Alaska, most EMTs volunteer for fire departments or ambulance services. In larger communities they often work for paid departments.



Hourly Wage Range*

\$16.24-\$29.33 (Mean \$22.58)

*based on Alaska DOL data

An Alaska Hot Job!



Years in School:

2 years or less*

*after high school graduation

Educational Requirements

EMT training does not require graduation from high school (some courses are even offered in high schools). A person must be 18 years of age or older to be certified as an EMT. A person must be 19 years of age or older and be a high school graduate to become licensed in Alaska as an Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic.



Basic Summary of Training

Level—(Minimum Hours)—Prerequisites

ETT—(40 hours)—None

EMT-I (EMT-Basic)—(120 hours)—*CPR credential

EMT-II—(50 hours)—EMT-I certificate plus 10 patient contacts as an EMT-I

EMT-III—(50 hours)—EMT-II certificate plus 10 patient contacts and 10 IVs as an EMT-II

MICP—(500 classroom, 232 in-hospital and 480 field internship)—Must be an EMT

*May be offered at the start of the course

Academic Programs in Alaska

Emergency Medical Technician courses are taught throughout Alaska, by Regional EMS Offices, local EMS squads, cities, boroughs, the University of Alaska, and others. All EMT courses taught in Alaska must be approved by the Department of Health and Social Services. The EMS Unit within DHSS maintains a list of EMT and MICP courses taught in Alaska on its web site at <http://www.chems.alaska.gov/EMS/>

There are two paramedic training programs in Alaska:

Kenai Peninsula College

Web site: <http://www.kpc.alaska.edu/academics/Paramedical.html>

UAF Tanana Valley Campus

Web site: <http://www.tvc.uaf.edu/programs/health/emer-med.html>

State and National Contacts

State Contact:

Section of Injury Prevention & Emergency Medical Services
Division of Public Health, DHSS

Phone: (907) 465-3027

Web site: <http://www.chems.alaska.gov>

National Contacts:

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians

Phone: (614) 888-4484

Web site: <http://www.nremt.org>

National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians

Phone: 1 (800) 34-NAEMT

Web site: <http://www.naemt.org>

Information from: www.healthcareersinalaska.info

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