

**Functional Position Description Emergency Medical Technician
Submitted By The Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Section of the
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.**

QUALIFICATIONS

Successfully complete a Prehospital Care Program approved course. Achievement of a passing score on written and practical certification examinations.

Must be at least 18 years of age. Generally, the knowledge and skills required show the need for a high school education or equivalent. Ability to communicate verbally via telephone and radio equipment; ability to lift, carry, and balance up to 125 pounds (250 pounds with assistance); ability to interpret written, oral, and diagnostic instructions; ability to use good judgment and remain calm in high-stress situations; ability to function efficiently throughout an entire work shift; ability to calculate weight and volume ratios and read small print, both under threatening time constraints; ability to read and understand English language manuals and road maps; ability to accurately discern street signs and address numbers; ability to interview patient, family members, and bystanders; ability to document, in writing, all relevant information in prescribed format, in light of legal ramifications of such; ability to converse in English with coworkers and hospital staff as to status of patient; possess good manual dexterity, with ability to perform all tasks related to highest quality patient care; ability to bend, stoop, and crawl on uneven terrain; ability to withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, cold, and moisture; and the ability to work in low light, confined spaces, and other dangerous environments.

COMPETENCY AREAS

EMT-Basic

Must demonstrate competency in handling emergencies utilizing all basic life support equipment and skills in accordance with all behavioral objectives in the DOT/EMT-Basic curriculum. Automated external defibrillation and intravenous access are optional skills and each has its own curriculum.

EMT-Intermediate

Must demonstrate competency in handling emergencies utilizing all basic and advanced life support equipment and skills in accordance with all behavioral objectives in the Colorado EMT-Intermediate curriculum.

EMT-Paramedic

Must demonstrate competency in handling emergencies utilizing all basic and advanced life support equipment and skills in accordance with all behavioral objectives in the DOT/EMT-Paramedic curriculum. The EMT-Paramedic has reached the highest level of certification.

DESCRIPTION OF TASKS

Receives call from dispatcher; responds verbally to emergency calls; reads maps; may drive ambulance to emergency site; uses most expeditious route; observes traffic ordinances and regulations. Determines nature and extent of illness or injury; takes pulse; blood pressure; visually observes changes in skin color; auscultates breath sounds; makes determination regarding patient status; establishes priority for emergency care; renders appropriate emergency care (based on competency level); and may administer intravenous drugs or fluid replacement as directed by physician. May use equipment (based on competency level) such as, but not limited to, defibrillator and electrocardiograph; performs endotracheal intubation to open airways and ventilate patient; inflates pneumatic anti-shock garment to improve patient's circulation. Assists in lifting, carrying, and transporting patient to ambulance and then to a medical facility; reassures patients and bystanders; avoids mishandling patient; avoids undue haste; searches for medical identification emblem to aid in care of patient; extricates patient from entrapment; assesses extent of injury; uses prescribed techniques and appliances, radios dispatcher for additional assistance or services; provides light rescue service if required; provides additional emergency care following established protocols.

Complies with regulations in handling deceased patients; notifies authorities; arranges for protection of property and evidence at scene. Determines appropriate facility to which patient will be transported; reports nature and extent of injuries or illness to the facility; asks for directions from hospital physician or emergency department; observes patient en-route and administers care as directed by physician or emergency department, or according to published protocol; identifies diagnostic signs that require communication with facility; assists in removing patient from ambulance and into emergency facility; reports verbally and in writing observations about, and care of, patient at the scene and en-route to facility; provides assistance to emergency staff as required.

Replaces supplies; sends used supplies for sterilization; checks all equipment for future readiness; maintains ambulance in operable condition; ensures ambulance cleanliness and orderliness of equipment and supplies; decontaminates vehicle interior; determines vehicle readiness by checking oil, gas, water in battery and radiator, and tire pressure; maintains familiarity with all specialized equipment.

The Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Section of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment *Fact Sheet* on the scope of an EMT Basic may be obtained through the CDPHE website link:

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/em/certificationeducation/certification>