

EMTs and Paramedics

SOC: 29-2040 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$46,350

Median Salary

282,900

Employment

+5.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Postsecondary

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 8.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

5.1/10 - Fair work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.4/10	Investigative	8.6/10
Artistic	4.8/10	Social	9.0/10
Enterprising	5.4/10	Conventional	6.2/10

■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Compassion, Interpersonal skills, Physical strength, Problem-solving skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

EMTs and Paramedics provide emergency medical care **to patients in pre-hospital settings, responding to accidents, injuries, and medical emergencies**. They assess conditions, administer treatments, and transport patients to healthcare facilities. Their work is critical in emergency response, public safety, and healthcare systems.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy healthcare, fast-paced environments, and helping people in urgent situations.

What Do EMTs and Paramedics Do?

These professionals provide immediate medical care, stabilize patients, and coordinate transport to medical facilities.

Common responsibilities include:

- Responding to emergency calls and arriving quickly on the scene
- Assessing patients' conditions and determining care priorities
- Administering first aid, CPR, or other emergency treatments
- Operating and monitoring medical equipment during transport
- Communicating patient information to hospital staff
- Maintaining accurate medical records and documentation
- Following protocols and safety guidelines

Key Areas of Emergency Medical Services

EMTs and paramedics may specialize or focus on specific duties:

- Emergency Response: Providing care at accident or emergency scenes
- Patient Assessment and Stabilization: Evaluating vital signs and stabilizing patients
- Medical Procedures and Treatment: Administering medications, oxygen, or other interventions
- Transport and Monitoring: Safely moving patients to medical facilities
- Public Safety and Education: Educating communities about emergency preparedness and safety

Skills and Abilities Needed

These professionals combine medical knowledge with quick decision-making and physical stamina.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal training and certification:

- High School Diploma or GED (minimum): Basic knowledge in biology, health, and communication
- EMT or Paramedic Training Program: Accredited courses providing hands-on and classroom instruction
- Certification and Licensure: State or national EMT/paramedic certification
- Clinical Experience: Supervised practical experience in emergency settings
- Continuous Learning: Staying updated on medical procedures, protocols, and equipment

Where Do EMTs and Paramedics Work?

They are employed in emergency medical and healthcare services:

- Ambulance Services
- Hospitals and Emergency Departments
- Fire Departments and Rescue Units
- Private Medical Transport Services

- Event or Disaster Response Teams

Work environments include emergency scenes, vehicles, medical facilities, and disaster sites.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires physical endurance, rapid decision-making, and emotional resilience. EMTs and paramedics must manage critical situations, provide life-saving care, and work under high stress.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy helping people in urgent or emergency situations
- Can remain calm under pressure and make quick decisions
- Have physical stamina and strong interpersonal skills
- Are detail-oriented and follow protocols accurately
- Want a career directly impacting patient survival and health outcomes

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in biology, health sciences, and first aid
- Volunteer or intern with EMS, fire departments, or hospitals
- Develop physical fitness, communication, and problem-solving skills
- Learn basic emergency procedures and CPR
- Explore accredited EMT and paramedic training programs

EMTs and paramedics provide critical emergency care, stabilize patients, and ensure safe transport, saving lives and supporting healthcare systems.

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/emts-and-paramedics.htm>