

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 they work?

In rural Alaska most EMTs volunteer for fire departments or ambulance services. In larger communities they often work for paid departments. The job market for EMS personnel in Alaska is relatively small, but growing, and an increasing number of agencies are requiring that applicants be licensed (or eligible for licensing) as a mobile intensive care paramedic (MICP).

Educational Requirements

- There are five levels of EMS training. The lowest level (ETT) carries no educational prerequisites but a student must be age 18 or older. Certification as an EMT and licensure as an MICP require successful completion of written and practical examinations. The requirements are:
- ETT: 40 hours training, including CPR certification
- EMT I: 120 hours training, including CPR certification and

Hourly Wage Range

\$16.49-\$36.40 (Mean \$26.10)*

*Based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School

2 years or more (after high school graduation)

Academic Programs in Alaska

EMT courses are taught throughout Alaska, by Regional EMS Offices, local EMS squads, cities, boroughs, the University of Alaska, and others. There are currently 3 paramedic training programs in Alaska:

Kenai Peninsula College
<http://www.kpc.alaska.edu/academics/areas-of-study/paramedic/>

Mat-Su College Campus
<http://matsu.alaska.edu/office/student-services/degree-programs/paramedical-technology/>

UAF Community and Technical College
www.ctc.uaf.edu/programs/paramedic/index.html

National Contacts

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians
<http://www.nremt.org>

National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
<http://www.naemt.org>



completion of EMT I examinations

- EMT II: All requirements for EMT I, plus 50 additional hours and 10 patient contacts as an EMT I and completion of EMT II examinations
- EMT III: All requirements for EMT II, plus 50 additional hours, 10 patient contacts and 10 IVs as an EMT II and completion of EMT III examinations
- MICP: All requirements for EMT I, plus 500 classroom hours, 232 in-hospital hours and 480 hours of field internship

State Contact

Emergency Medical Services Unit
Division of Public Health
Phone: (907) 269-4659
<http://www.ems.alaska.gov/>

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