

# EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

## { JOB DESCRIPTION }

Administer first aid treatment and transport sick or injured persons to medical facility, working as a member of an emergency medical team.

## { SKILLS AND APTITUDES NEEDED }

- Emotionally stable
- Good agility, dexterity, and physical coordination
- Ability to lift and carry heavy loads
- Good eyesight (corrective lenses may be used) with accurate color vision

Depending on the nature of the emergency, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are dispatched to the scene by a 911 operator and often work with police and fire department personnel. Once they arrive, they determine the nature and extent of the patient's condition while trying to ascertain whether the patient has preexisting medical problems. Following strict procedures, they give appropriate emergency care and transport the patient. At the medical facility, EMTs help transfer patients to the emergency department, and report their observations and actions to staff.

EMTs work both indoors and outdoors in all types of weather. They are required to do considerable kneeling, bending, and heavy lifting. They risk noise-induced hearing loss from sirens and back injuries from lifting patients. EMTs may be exposed to diseases such as Hepatitis-B and AIDS, as well as violence from drug overdose victims or psychologically disturbed patients. The work is not only physically strenuous, but also stressful, involving life-or-death situations and suffering patients. Because emergency services function 24 hours a day, EMTs may have irregular working hours.

## { SOUTH PLAINS }

Avg. Wage  
**\$11.16**

Avg. Annual  
Job Openings  
**14**

Employment in  
1998 2008  
**199 285**

## { TEXAS }

Avg. Wage  
**\$9.77**

Avg. Annual  
Job Openings  
**451**

Employment in  
1998 2008  
**7,723 10,325**

## { U.S. EMPLOYMENT }

In 1998  
**149,961**

Female **67%**  
Minority **39%**

## HEALTH SERVICES CAREERS



### { PREFERRED EDUCATION }

- Associate degree in approved EMT basic training program

### { LICENSE / CERTIFICATION }

- Certification by State or National Registry, required
- Must re-register every two years
- Continuing education required

### { REGIONAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS }

- **SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE** - Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.), Emergency Medical Services; Emergency Medical Technician Intermediate Certificate; Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic Certificate

### { JOB SITES }

Local Passenger Transport	38%
Local Government, Except Education	32%
Hospitals	24%
Offices/Clinics, Doctors	3%

### { FOR MORE INFORMATION }

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS  
408 Monroe St., Clinton, MS 39056-4210  
(800) 346-2368, [www.naemt.org](http://www.naemt.org)

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ADMINISTRATION  
EMS Division, 400 7th St. SW., NTS-14  
Washington, DC 20590  
[www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/ems](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/ems)

NATIONAL REGISTRY OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS  
P.O. Box 29233, Columbus, OH 43229  
(614) 888-4484 [www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, BUREAU OF EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT, 1100 West 49th St. Austin, TX 78756-3199,  
(512) 458-7550, Region 1 EMS, WTAMU Box 60968, Canyon,  
TX 79016-0968, (806) 655-7151 ext. 212 or 240,  
[www.tdh.state.tx.us](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us)