

Functional Job Description for All Emergency Technicians

Read this carefully before continuing further with your EMS application

The following job description and responsibilities is a list of minimum requirements considered to be necessary to be certified in the State of Colorado as an EMT at any level. Individual employers may add upon these requirements, but they may not waive any of them for any individual.

Qualifications:

- Successfully complete an EMS Division 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 with assistance).
- Ability to interpret written, oral and diagnostic form instructions.
- Ability to use good judgment and remain calm in high-stress situations.
- Ability to work effectively in an environment with loud noises and flashing lights.
- Ability to function efficiently throughout an entire work shift.
- Ability to calculate weight and volumes ratios and read small print, both under threatening time constraints.
- Ability to read and understand English language manuals and road maps.
- 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 co-workers and hospital staff as to status of patient.
- Good manual dexterity, with ability to perform all tasks related to highest quality patient care.
- Ability to bend, stoop, and crawl on uneven terrain; and the ability to withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, cold and moisture.
- Ability to work in low light, confined spaces, and other dangerous environments.

COMPETENCY AREAS

EMT-BASIC

- Must demonstrate competency handling emergencies using all Basic Life Support equipment and skills in accordance with all behavioral objectives in the DOB/EMT-Basic curriculum.
- Automated external defibrillation and intravenous access are optional skills and curriculum.

EMT-INTERMEDIATE

- Must demonstrate competency handling emergencies utilizing all Basic and Advanced Life Support equipment and skills in accordance with all behavioral objectives in the DOT/EMT-Intermediate curriculum.

EMT-PARAMEDIC

- Must demonstrate competency 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 routes, and 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); 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, electrocardiograph, performs endotracheal intubation to open airways and ventilate patient, inflates pneumatic anti-shock garment to improve patient's blood circulation.
- Assists in lifting, carrying, and transporting patient to ambulance and into a medical facility.
- Reassures patients and bystanders, avoids mishandling patient and undue haste, searches for medical identification emblem to aid in care.
- Extricates patient from entrapment, assesses extent of injury, uses prescribed techniques and appliances, radio 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, notifies authorities, arranges for protection of property and evidence at scene.

- Determines appropriate facility to which patient will be transported, report nature and extent of injuries or illness to the facility, asks for direction 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.
- Assist in removing patient from ambulance and into emergency facility.
- Report 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, send 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.

Copied from the State of Colorado Curriculum Outline for EMT
Basic Functional Position Description Emergency Medical
Technician,

INHERENT RISKS TO YOUR EMT EDUCATION AND CAREER

EMT students must have an understanding of the risks they face during the EMT education program (primarily during clinicals) and know how to mitigate them. The following are the most significant risks to which EMT students may be exposed:

1. Hepatitis (from infected body fluids)
2. Tuberculosis (TB – airborne droplets)
3. Other infectious diseases
4. Accidents involving the ambulance
5. Hazards at accident scenes (i.e., being struck by an approaching vehicle, broken glass, sharp metal edges. . .)
6. Hazards at any scene (uncooperative or combative patients or bystanders. . .)
7. Back injuries due to inappropriate lifting techniques.

EMTs can mitigate the above risks by taking the proper precautions:

1. Wear gloves whenever exposure to bodily fluids is possible.
2. Complete the first two hepatitis inoculations before the first clinical experience.
3. Wear a tight fitting facemask whenever exposure to airborne infection is probable.
4. Wash hands thoroughly after every patient contact.
5. Wear seat belts whenever sitting in a moving ambulance,
6. Be extremely cautious at traffic accident scenes.
7. Be extremely cautious at any scene.
8. Prevent back injuries by reading the EMT injury free booklet, practicing proper lifting techniques, knowing your limitations, knowing when to say NO to lifting in your clinicals.