

DAY IN THE LIFE OF

A CERTIFIED EMT



ENVIRONMENT

EMTs may work for a private company, medical facility, hospital, ambulance transport company or police or fire department. Their environments may range from sanitized clinical rooms, ambulances in transit, or incident scenes. The ability to work well with others is important as they may work on a large team with hospital staff, or 2-person team on an ambulance.



CHARACTERISTICS

EMTs must operate with integrity on and off duty. Patient should be confident that in their most vulnerable moments they will not be exploited or mistreated. Departments and organizations must trust in the EMT's ability to abide by their standard operating procedures and state/national laws. They must be able to adapt and overcome.



KNOWLEDGE

As the first step to hospital care, EMTs must quickly conduct patient assessments to administer the correct medical intervention. They are required to maintain a working knowledge of medical conditions; and treatment options including emergency equipment, supplies, and medications. Understanding when and how to use each intervention requires an ability to demonstrate problem-solving and critical thinking skills.



SKILLS

EMTs will encounter diverse groups of people in various medical crisis. They must be able to diffuse situations, establish rapport, communicate to their team, and prioritize effective care. They will need to use basic mathematical skills to administer medications through various methods. Be capable of providing airway management, cardiac monitoring, medical assessment, trauma assessment, management, and supportive care.



RISK AND HAZARDS

The role of an EMT is emotionally, mentally, and physically demanding. EMTs may experience exposure to hazardous materials or chemicals, infectious diseases from patients or needles, physical injury from carrying patients, workplace violence, and exposure to extreme weather. Good physical health is necessary, as well as mental health support before and after traumatic events.