

FUNCTIONAL POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

INTRODUCTION

The following is a position description for the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). This document identifies the minimum qualifications, expectations, competencies and tasks expected of the EMT.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION

To qualify for state certification, the applicant shall at a minimum:

1. Meet minimum state entry requirements.
2. Meet requirements, such as attendance and grades.
3. Successfully complete all certifications examinations.
4. Have a valid skills verification form signed (Appendix E).

COMPETENCIES

The EMT must demonstrate competency in handling emergencies utilizing basic life support equipment in accordance with the objectives in the U.S. Department of Transportation National Standard Curriculum for EMT and other objectives identified by the Department, to include having the ability to:

- Verbally communicate in person and via telephone and telecommunications using the English language.
- Hear spoken information from co-workers, patients, physicians and dispatchers and sounds common to the emergency scene.
- Lift, carry and balance a minimum of 125 pounds equally distributed (250 pounds with assistance), a height of 33 inches, a distance of 10 feet.
- Read and comprehend written materials under stressful conditions.
- Verbally interview patient, family members, and bystanders and hear their responses.
- Document physically in writing all relevant information in prescribed format.
- Demonstrate manual dexterity and fine motor skills, with ability to perform all tasks related to quality patient care.
- Bend, stoop, crawl and walk on uneven surfaces.
- Meet minimum vision requirements to operate a motor vehicle within the state.
- Function in varied environmental conditions such as lighted or darkened work areas, extreme heat, cold and moisture.

FUNCTIONAL POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

DESCRIPTION OF TASKS

May function alone or as a member of a multi-member team.

Receives calls from dispatcher, verbally acknowledges the call, reads road maps, identifies of the most expeditious route to the scene, and observes traffic ordinances and regulations.

Upon arrival at the scene, insures that the vehicle is parked in a safe location; performs size-up to determine scene safety including the presence of hazardous materials, mechanism of injury or illness, determines total number of patients. Performs triage and requests additional help if necessary.

In the absence of public safety personnel, takes safety precautions to protect the injured and those assisting in the care of the patient(s).

Using body substance isolation techniques protects the patient(s) and providers from possible contamination.

Inspects for medical identification, emblems, bracelets or cards that provide emergency care information.

Determines nature and extent of illness or injury, checks respiration, auscultates breath sounds, takes pulses, blood pressure by auscultation and palpation, (including proper placement of the cuff), visually observes changes in skin color, establishes priority for emergency care. Based on assessment findings, renders emergency care to adults, infants and children.

Skills performed include but are not limited to: establishing and maintaining an airway, ventilating patients, cardiac resuscitation, use of automated external defibrillators where applicable. In addition, provides prehospital emergency care of single and multiple system trauma such as controlling hemorrhage, treatment of shock (hypoperfusion), bandaging wounds, spinal immobilization and splinting of painful swollen or deformed extremities.

Manages medical patients to include but are not limited to: assisting in childbirth, management of respiratory, cardiac, diabetic, allergic, behavioral, and environmental emergencies and suspected poisonings.

Performs interventions and assists patients with prescribed medications, including sublingual nitroglycerin, epinephrine auto injectors, and metered dose aerosol inhalers.

Responsible for the administration of oxygen, oral glucose and activated charcoal.

Reassures patients and bystanders by working in a confident, efficient manner.

Functions in varied environmental conditions such as lighted or darkened work areas, extreme heat, cold and moisture.

Performs in situations that create stress and tension on a regular basis.

Where extrication is required, assesses extent of entrapment and provides all possible emergency care and protection to the patient. Uses recognized techniques and equipment for removing patients safely (to include proper strap placement).

FUNCTIONAL POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

Communicates verbally for additional help as needed. Following extrication provides additional medical care and triaging the injured in accordance with standard emergency procedures.

Complies with regulations for the handling of crime scenes and prehospital deaths by notifying the appropriate authorities and arranging for the protection of property and evidence at the scene.

Carries and places patient in the ambulance and assures that the patient and stretcher are secured, and continues emergency medical care enroute in accordance with local protocols.

Determines most appropriate facility for patient transport. Reports to the receiving facility the nature and extent of injuries, the number of patients being transported.

Observes patient enroute and administers care as directed by medical control or local protocol. Able to maneuver to all points in the patient compartment while transporting with a stretchered patient. Assists in lifting and carrying patients, and appropriate equipment from ambulance and into receiving facility.

Reports verbally and in writing, observations and emergency care given to the patient at the scene and in transit to the receiving staff for record keeping and diagnostic purposes. Upon requests, provides assistance to the receiving facility staff.

Disposes of contaminated supplies in accordance with established guidelines, decontaminates vehicle interior, sends used supplies for sterilization.

Maintains ambulance in operable condition, which includes cleanliness, orderliness and restocking of equipment and supplies. Determines vehicle readiness by checking oil, gas, and water in battery and radiator, and tire pressure.

Checks all medical equipment for future readiness. Maintains familiarity with all specialized equipment.

Attends continuing education and refresher training programs as required by EMS agency, medical direction, and/or certifying agency.

Meets qualifications within the functional position description of the EMT.