

FUNCTIONAL POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR THE FIRST RESPONDER

INTRODUCTION

The following is a position description for the First Responder. This document identifies the minimum qualifications, expectations, competencies and tasks expected of the First Responder.

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 verification of skill form signed (Appendix D).

COMPETENCIES

The First Responder 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 First Responder 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.

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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, assists in the identification 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, determines scene safety including the presence of hazardous materials, mechanism of injury or illness, and determines total number of patients.

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.

Determines nature and extent of illness or injury, checks respiration, 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.

Skills performed include but are not limited to: establishing and maintaining an airway, ventilating patients, cardiac resuscitation, use of automated external defibrillators where applicable, controlling hemorrhage, bandaging wounds and splinting of painful swollen or deformed extremities.

Responsible for the administration of oxygen.

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.

Communicates verbally for additional help as needed.

Assists in lifting, carrying and transporting patient to an ambulance.

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Reports verbally and in writing, observations and emergency care given to the patient at the scene. Upon requests, provides assistance to the receiving facility staff.

Disposes of contaminated supplies in accordance with established guidelines.

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

Meets qualifications within the functional position description of the First Responder.