

## NATURE OF WORK

Quick reaction and competent care from emergency medical technicians (EMTs) in an emergency situation can make the difference between life and death for a person. Automobile accidents, heart attacks, gunshot wounds, childbirth and drowning victims all require immediate medical attention. This is where the EMTs' advanced training in performing more difficult pre-hospital medical procedures is important. EMTs provide this vital attention as they care for and transport the sick or injured to a medical facility. In an emergency, EMTs are typically dispatched to the scene by a 911 operator and often work with the police and fire department. Upon arrival at the scene the EMT will assess the patient's needs and treat them accordingly.

## WORKING CONDITIONS

EMTs work both indoors and outdoors in all types of weather. They must be able to meet all physical requirements of the job including carrying equipment and patients. An EMT's work involves a variety of medical and trauma situations. Employment with fire departments, hospitals and ambulance services means frequently working 40+ hours per week.

## TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

Formal training and certification is needed to become an EMT. All 50 states have a certification procedure. In most states and the District of Columbia, registration with the NREMT is required at some or all levels of certification. Some states administer their own certification examination or provide the option of taking the NREMT examination. For EMTs to maintain certification, they must reregister, usually every two years. To reregister, an individual must be an EMT and meet a continuing education requirement.

## JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of emergency medical technicians is expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations through 2018. Population growth and urbanization will increase the demand for full-time paid and volunteer EMTs. In addition, a large segment of the population is aging (the baby boomers) and will further spur demand for EMTs' services as this population will become more likely to have medical emergencies.

## CAREER OPTIONS

EMT and Paramedics

## ESTIMATED SALARY RANGE

New Mexico—\$19,970—\$ 30,100  
Nationally— \$20,460—\$43,540  
(depending on skill, experience and responsibility)

## RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Firefighters, registered and practical nurses, and ER techs

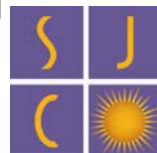
## SJC Basic Program Information

Students have nine (9) months from the date on their EMT Course Completion Certificate to complete the initial NM state licensing examination and to obtain a NM state EMT license. Then, they have a total of two (2) years from the date on the course completion certificate to complete the testing process, if necessary. Failure to complete the state examination within the two (2) years will require the student to take the entire EMT course over before they can re-apply for state licensure examination.



### For further information go to:

[www.sanjuancollege.edu/pages/158.asp](http://www.sanjuancollege.edu/pages/158.asp)  
[www.nremt.org/](http://www.nremt.org/)  
[www.bls.gov/oco/ocos101.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos101.htm)



\*Most of this information is from the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-2011

Reviewed as of February 16, 2010