

Careers in Emergency Medical Services

By Anthony Lim

Levels of EMS

First Responder



Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) - Basic



Emergency Medical Technician - Advanced



Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic



First Responder

The certified First Responder has successfully completed an approved First Responder Course which is typically 40-60 hours in length. First Responders are trained in the use of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED), CPR, oxygen administration, bandaging, splinting, and emergency childbirth.

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) - Basic

- The EMT-Basic has successfully completed an approved EMT Course which is typically about 150 hours in length. EMTs are trained in the use of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED), CPR, oxygen administration, bandaging, splinting, emergency childbirth, nonvisualized airways, blood glucose level testing and the administration of nitroglycerin, epinephrine with an Epi-Pen, aspirin and activated charcoal, although activated charcoal is not used in this system.
- What you normally see at ambulance companies
- \$13-\$17 per hour

Emergency Medical Technician - Advanced

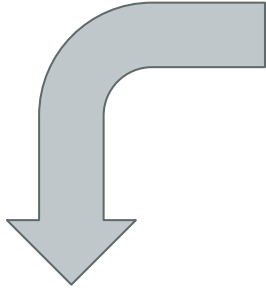
- The Advanced EMT has successfully completed an approved EMT Course plus an Advanced EMT Course which is typically a total of about 250 hours in length. Advanced EMTs are trained in the use of automatic and manual defibrillators, CPR, oxygen administration, bandaging, splinting, emergency childbirth, nonvisualized airways, the administration of several medications, intravenous access (IV), and cardiac monitoring.
- Same pay as EMT-Basic

Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic

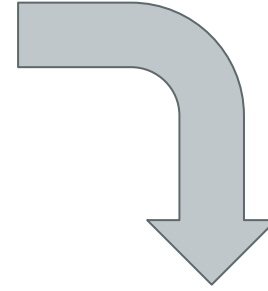
- The Paramedic has successfully completed an approved EMT Course plus a Paramedic Course which is typically a total of about 1,500 hours. Most paramedic courses now take between 18-24 months to complete. Paramedics are trained in all of the BLS skills and in the use of manual defibrillation, transcutaneous cardiac pacing, 12 lead ECGs, advanced airway management, including surgical airways, intravenous access, intraosseous access, which involves placing a needle in a bone and using the bone marrow as a fluid and medication route and pharmacology
- Less prevalent at companies - most become Firefighters
- Paid more \$20+ an hour

Further Levels/Pathways

Paramedic



Firefighter



Police

Firefighter

- Almost always must be a Paramedic level to become a Firefighter
- Paid very well
- Very good benefits

Police Officer

- Most police academies want at least EMT level
- Must be sponsored, background checks, intense screening process to go to police academy
- More info <https://www.how-to-become-a-police-officer.com/>

How to Become an EMT

Requirements:

- High School GED
- California Drivers License - (some places at least 1 year)
- 18 years old
- CPR - Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers from either the **American Heart Association or the American Red Cross ONLY**
- Medical Clearance - physical, Clearance for Mask Fit Testing, Proof of the certain immunizations, Copy of health insurance card:
- Background Checks

EMT School

Emergency Medical Technician: Online & Traditional



- Offered by many Universities, Community colleges, and state schools
- UCLA Center for Prehospital Care
- \$1400 at UCLA but much cheaper at community colleges
- However, one of the best schools in the country (people fly here to take)
- Online, weekend, weeknight, accelerated intensive

EMT School - What's it Like?

- Lectures/Didactic Learning
- Skills/Hands on
- Tests - must maintain at least 80% Average
- Final - must pass final with 80%
- Must pass EMT Psychomotor Exam
- Ride Alongs
- Pretty Fun!

EMT Certifications

FIRST

Must get NREMT = National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians

Computer-Based exam - varies on number of questions

Must pass to obtain NREMT

EMT Certifications

SECOND

CALIFORNIA STATE LICENSURE

Must go to the county you want to work in and submit an application along with:

- Course Completion Certificate Must have completed within the past 24 months at time of application
- NREMT Card
- BLS for the Healthcare Provider Card BLS must be valid for a minimum of 3 months after certification date. Online programs are NOT accepted.
- LA County EMT Scope of Practice Certificate
- Government Issued Identifier
- Live Scan for State and Federal governments

EMT Certifications

Third/Fourth

-County Accreditations

In many counties must have accreditations specific to the county

I have OC accreditation, LA City accreditation, and LA county

-Ambulance Driver's Certificate -

- Requires background check as well (live scan)
- Written test you take at DMV

Get Hired!

99% of Ambulance Companies privately owned / operated

Apply like a normal job

BUT!

Part of the hiring process for most companies is their own exams: knowledge based written exams, skills based tests, oral exams, interviews, personality exams

If you pass those then formal interview then hired!

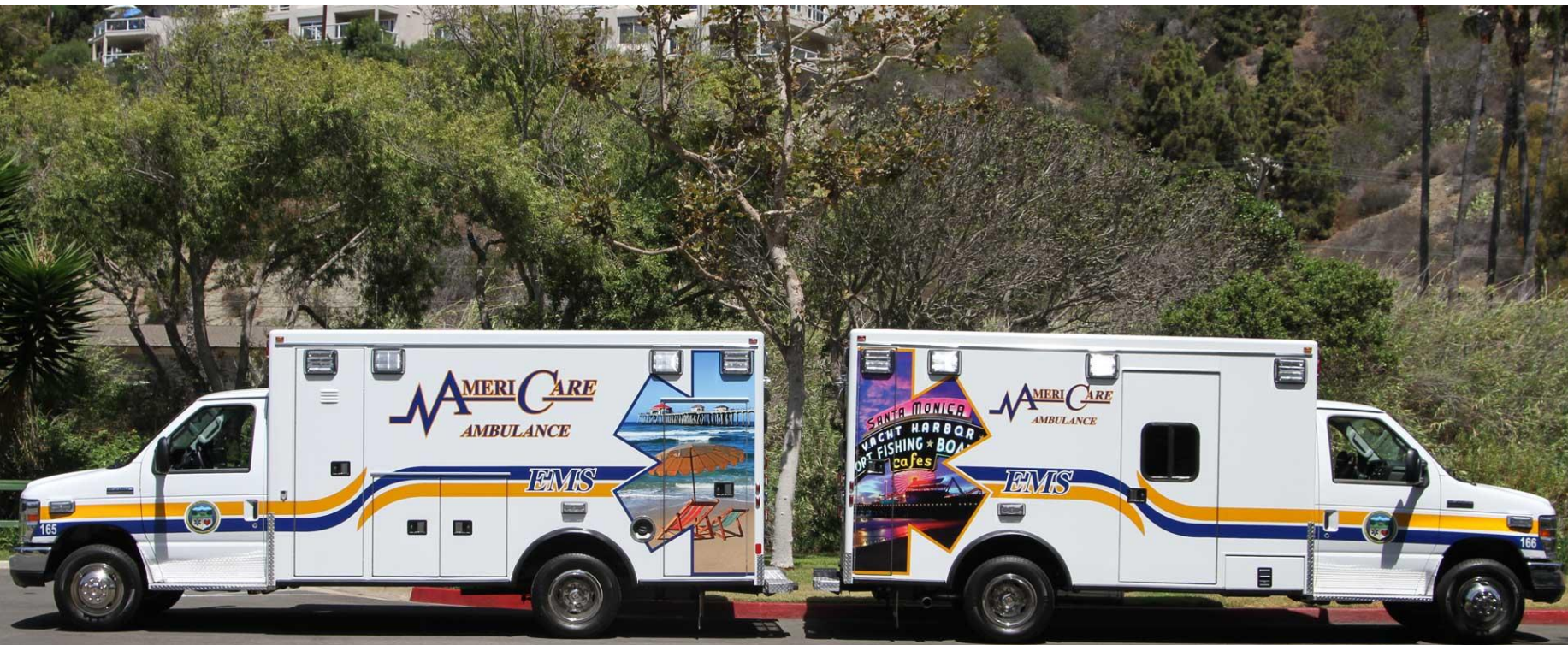
911 versus IFT

- 911 call provider companies - about 6 nearby
 - When someone calls 911 for an emergency 911 companies respond along with the fire department and provide primary care and “Code 3” emergency transport to hospitals
- IFT - Interfacility Transfer companies
 - Transport critical and stable patients between hospitals as well as discharges to SNFs and homes.
 - Do not receive 911 calls
 - More patient interaction

AMERI CARE AMBULANCE

CARING · COMPASSION · COURTESY

- Stations all over LA
- Serves all 911 calls for the City of Santa Monica
- 911 and IFT
- Events - First Aid



Other Companies

- Schaefer
- McCormick
- AMR
- Care
- Falck
- UCLA EMS
- Ambulanz
- Many more!

Once hired... What is working like?

- Shifts 10 hour or 24 hour normal shifts
- Special Events
- Every station - different vibe
- Lots of Down Time
- High stress at times
- Bursts
- Sleep!
- Work out!
- Eat!
- Service community
- Save Lives!

Why I Became an EMT

- Was a Care Extender in ER - wanted to be able to do more than observe
- ER Technicians - all EMTs before, talked to them and was interested
- Medical School -
 - wanted to work in the field before medical school - earn money
 - Gain more hands on experience
 - Lets you evaluate yourself in the field - how do you work under pressure?
 - Helps with applications/extracurriculars
 - Interested in Emergency Medicine
- Fun !-
 - In the field very different from the hospital
 - Get to know/bond with partners
 - Flexible hours and actually get to practice a little medicine

Thank You!

