Emergency Medical Services

Emergency medical technicians and paramedics care for the sick and injured in emergency settings. People's lives often depend upon their quick reaction and competent care. They respond to emergency calls, perform medical services, and transport patients to medical facilities. There are three levels of licensure for EMTs in Alabama.

EMTs are trained in life-saving medical interventions. They typically work for fire departments or with a Paramedic Partner for an ambulance company. Training to this level is one semester.

With an additional semester of successful training candidates can be licensed as Advanced EMTs. AEMTs learn to start IVs, perform advanced airway interventions, and administer certain medications.

Paramedics are the most highly trained EMTs. They perform many advanced life saving interventions and can administer a large variety of medications. Paramedics are widely regarded as medical professionals.

On September 11, 2001, 43 EMTs died in service alongside their 343 firefighter brothers and sisters. Their combined efforts saved the lives of 25,000 evacuees. This type of heroism is displayed daily by EMTs across the country who risk their lives to aid their neighbors.
EMS is a Rapidly Growing Field with a Variety of Job Opportunities

According to a Department of Labor job forecast, EMS will grow at a rate of 33%, which is much faster than average.

One of the biggest challenges for a young profession that is growing so rapidly is filling leadership positions. That leadership vacuum means advancement opportunities!

EMT’s don’t just transport the sick and injured, they enjoy many unique and exciting opportunities. Some of them work in medical research, cardiac cath labs, or practice tactical medicine.

The majority of fire departments in the country provide medical services. Many EMT’s are also firefighters. The fact is, that if you want to compete for these prestigious positions the best credential to have is a Paramedic license!

Did you know that the first 911 call took place in Haleyville, Alabama in 1968? This is just one of many examples of how the people of Alabama have always been leaders in developing EMS systems.

Do You Want to be A Firefighter?

Since EMS began, it has been an important part of the fire service.

- Most modern fire departments are EMS providers
- Many fire departments are the sole EMS providers in their jurisdiction.
- Nationally, the vast majority of all fire department responses are medical calls.
- Most fire departments require firefighters to maintain some level of EMS license.

Becoming a Paramedic is the Best Way to Compete for Fire Department Jobs!

Jefferson State Community College:
- Four Convenient Locations
- Excellent Value
- Accredited through Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

EMS Program:
- Offers an A.A.S. Program in EMS
- Is accredited through CoAEMSP
- Has certification rates that consistently exceed national averages

For more information contact: Pete Norris
Program Director
(205) 983-5206
(205) 856-7940
(205) 983-5206
emsinfo@jeffersonstate.edu

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