

Media Information

from the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians

About NAEMT

Formed in 1975 and today more than 32,000 members strong, the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) is the only national association dedicated to representing the professional interests of all emergency medical services (EMS) practitioners, including paramedics, advanced emergency medical technicians, emergency medical technicians, emergency medical responders and other professionals working in prehospital emergency medicine. NAEMT members work in all sectors of EMS, including government service agencies, fire departments, hospital-based ambulance services, private companies, industrial and special operations settings, and in the military.

About EMS

EMS practitioners provide prehospital emergency medical care. People call EMS when they have had an accident or are experiencing a medical emergency, including heart attack, difficulty breathing, a fall or accident, drowning, cardiac arrest, stroke, drug overdose or acute illness. EMS may provide both basic and advanced medical care at the scene of an emergency and en route to a hospital.

For more information: www.naemt.org | 1-800-346-2368

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About NAEMT



NAEMT focuses on three key areas: Membership, Education and Advocacy.

Membership

- As a national membership association, NAEMT offers members thousands of dollars in members-only benefits and discounts, including educational resources and scholarships, EMS merchandise and supplies, insurance coverage, conferences, publications, members communications and much more. To view the full list, visit the Member Benefits section of www.naemt.org.
- NAEMT is led by a board of 15 directors who represent four regions spanning the U.S. and who volunteer their time and effort in steering the association. Committees assist the board in carrying out the work of the association. Headquarters and staff are based in Clinton, Mississippi.

Education

- NAEMT is known for offering the best in EMS continuing education through its nationally recognized courses: Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS), Emergency Pediatric Care (EPC), EMS Safety, Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS), Tactical Casualty Combat Care, and Trauma First Response. These leading-edge courses are solidly built on the most current evidence-based research, and provide information on best practices assessment, treatment and techniques. All NAEMT courses are accredited by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services (CECBEMS) and recognized by the National Registry of EMTs (NREMT).
- Last year, through its course sites, NAEMT continuing education courses educated more than 61,000 students.

Advocacy

- Through its advocacy program, NAEMT is the national united voice of EMS on issues including pay and benefits, work environments, safety, and the ability of practitioners to effectively serve their patients. NAEMT also is one of the four sponsoring organizations of Advocates for EMS, which promotes, educates and increases awareness among governmental decision-makers on EMS issues.
- Annually, NAEMT hosts EMS on the Hill Day, a national advocacy event at which EMS professionals meet with their congressional leaders on Capitol Hill to advocate for the passage of key EMS legislation. At last year's event, 145 EMS professionals from 39 states and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico met with more than 217 U.S. Senators, House Representatives, and their congressional staff to advocate for EMS.
- NAEMT publishes position statements on issues of importance to EMS practitioners. These statements can be found in the Advocacy section of our web site.

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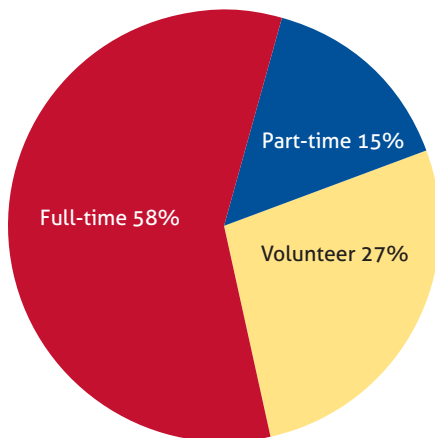
NAEMT Membership

NAEMT members encompass both paid and volunteer EMS practitioners, working on a full-time and part-time basis.

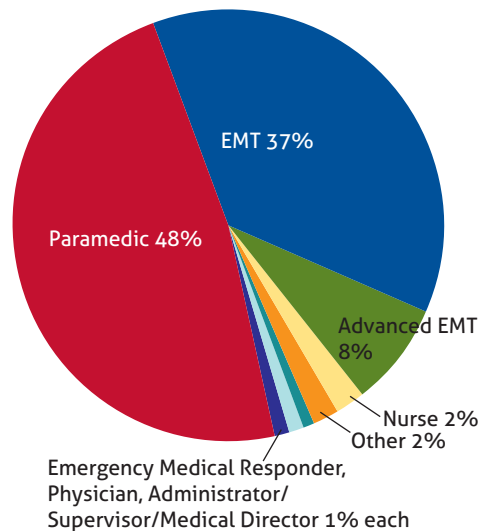
Practitioner types include EMTs, Advanced EMTs and Paramedics, with emergency medical responders, nurses and other allied health and medical professionals making up a small percentage of our membership.

NAEMT members work in all sectors of EMS, including government service agencies, fire departments, private and hospital-based ambulance services, industrial and commercial settings, and in the military.

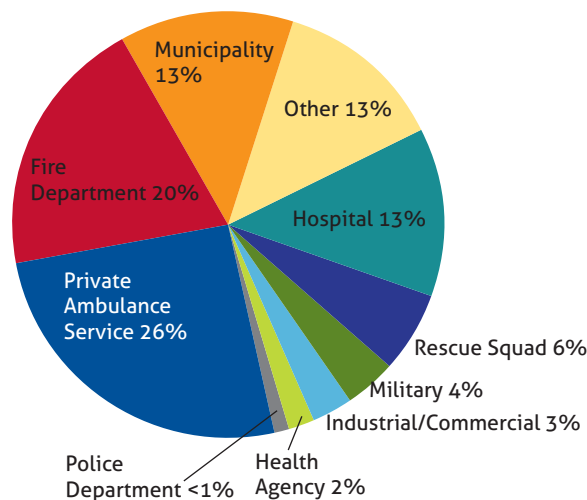
Member demographics



Member careers



Member employment



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About EMS

What is an EMS system? EMS is more than an ambulance service. It includes the call center that receives the call for and dispatches help, those who respond first (such as police officers and firefighters), an ambulance transportation team of EMTs and/or paramedics, physicians and nurses who provide advice via radio or phone, air medical services (helicopters and small airplanes), hospital receiving facilities, and governmental and medical oversight.

Who provides EMS? When a person becomes ill or injured and dials 911, the call is answered by an EMS dispatcher, who is trained to obtain key information from the caller about the location and type of emergency. The dispatcher also may give the caller patient care instructions while sending emergency responders to the scene of the emergency.

These responders include:

- Emergency Medical Responders
- Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)
- Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians
- Paramedics

The training level needed for EMS practitioners is a state decision. Each level of EMS practitioner is trained to perform different skills to assist patients.

EMS practitioners work under protocols approved by a physician medical director, who oversees the care of patients in the EMS system and is knowledgeable about patient care interventions and how EMS systems deliver care. Typically, EMS medical directors work in conjunction with local EMS leaders to assure quality patient care. EMS care may be provided by private ambulance companies, fire or police departments, a public EMS agency, a hospital or by a combination of these. EMS practitioners may be paid workers or community volunteers.

What skills does an EMT perform? EMTs can perform CPR, artificial ventilations, oxygen administration, basic airway management, defibrillation using an AED, spinal immobilization, monitoring of vital signs and bandaging/splinting. They also may administer nitroglycerin, glucose, epinephrine and albuterol in special circumstances.

What skills does a paramedic perform? A paramedic has extensive training in patient assessment and participates in a variety of clinical experiences during training. He or she can perform all of the skills performed by an EMT-Basic, plus advanced airway management such as endotracheal intubation, electrocardiographs (ECGs), insertion of intravenous lines, administration of numerous emergency medications, and assessment of ECG tracings and defibrillation.

Do EMTs and paramedics need a license? Every state in the United States has a lead EMS agency or state office of EMS that determines requirements of EMS professionals in their state. Some state EMS offices issue licenses to EMS providers; others do not. All EMS practitioners are required to complete continuing education classes so they can stay current in medical treatment standards and protocols.

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