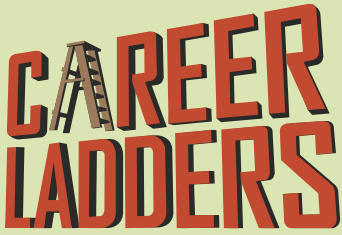


# EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

Emergency medical technicians care for and transport the sick or injured to a medical facility.



Employment opportunities in the health care field are currently at an exceptionally high level. No matter what the state of the economy, the demand for health care professionals will continue to grow. Individuals can start in entry-level occupations and advance their careers while enjoying the stability of employment. Also, individuals can start at the mid or advanced levels, depending on their education, training, and career goals. At each of the levels, there are many opportunities for more challenging and higher paying positions.

## SAGINAW VALLEY

Each ladder depicts a series of work experiences that leads to more challenging and higher paying opportunities. While every level of the ladder can provide a satisfying job, some employees will choose to gain even more skills and responsibilities that will advance them in their careers. To do so, they will need more education, training, and work experiences. Some jobs will require a certificate, a license, or an advanced degree.

CLIMBING THE CAREER LADDER

### ADVANCED LEVEL

Associate's, bachelor's, master's or doctorate degree required; must graduate from an accredited program; must obtain license or certification

#### Registered Nurse

\$19.30-\$27.64/hour

#### Pharmacists

\$31.83-\$41.95/hour

### MID LEVEL

Associate's degree or graduation from an accredited program required; must obtain a license or certification

#### Licensed Practical Nurse

\$12.71-\$17.81/hour

#### Paramedic

\$10.30-\$18.04/hour

### ENTRY LEVEL

Most occupations require a high school diploma or a graduate equivalency diploma (GED), three to six months training, and knowledge of medical terminology; certification is required in some of the occupations

#### Nursing Aide, Orderly, and Attendant

\$8.06-\$11.39/hour

#### Emergency Medical Technician

\$7.73-\$10.30/hour

#### Pharmacy Technician

\$8.74-\$13.19/hour

Wages will vary within this occupation based on the employee's education, training, and years of experience.

## JOB DESCRIPTION

Each occupation is described in terms of specific tasks and typical job duties.

### AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN MUST BE ABLE TO:

- Respond by ambulance to medical emergencies for the injured and ill
- Conduct careful examination of patients for signs and symptoms of illness or injury and assist other medical personnel as necessary
- Provide transportation while constantly monitoring the patient and providing appropriate continuing care
- Effectively communicate with others including patients, families, bystanders, and other emergency service staff
- Drive emergency vehicles, perform daily equipment checks, and restock medical supplies
- React appropriately in emergency situations and function well under stress
- Have a working knowledge of common physical illnesses, obvious symptoms, and appropriate medical terminology
- Use locator aids to find specific locations like maps, compasses, and directions
- Have a safe driving record on and off duty
- Identify need for spinal restrictions, dress and bandage wounds, deliver a baby, splint injured extremities, and cope with psychological stresses on patients

## WAGES

Wage information was obtained from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth and from local employers to give a general idea of the wages and salaries for this occupation.

## WAGE RANGE

\$7.73-\$10.30/hour

## WORKING CONDITIONS

Emergency medical technicians team up with a paramedic and are typically dispatched to the scene in an ambulance by a 911 operator. They work both indoors and outdoors in all types of weather conditions. Emergency medical technicians work in a variety of settings and are employed in a number of industries, such as ambulance services, fire departments, and hospitals. Their work often involves dealing with human suffering and tragedy. Emergency medical technicians must be able to lift heavy objects, including patients and equipment.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Courses, programs, and certificates that are needed for employment are offered by local education and training providers.

### HIGH SCHOOL

- High school diploma or graduate equivalency diploma (GED)
- Completion of high school's Health Science Career Pathway requirements and/or appropriate career and technical education classes
- Algebra
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer classes
- Career studies, such as the medical careers program at the Saginaw Career Complex and the nursing assistant/health careers program at the Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center
- Co-op experience
- Volunteer experience in a health care environment

### POST-SECONDARY TRAINING

- Basic emergency medical technician training

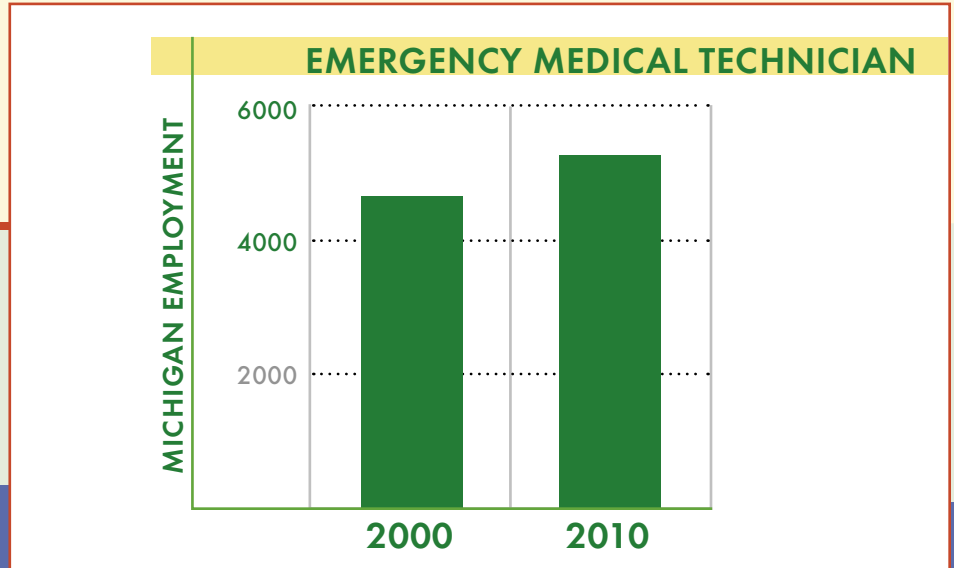
### LOCAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROVIDERS

- Mobile Medical Response Inc.



# JOB OUTLOOK

The rate of growth within this occupation is projected by data from local employers and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth.



## ADVANCEMENT

There are several opportunities for advancement within the emergency medical services field. Emergency medical technicians can take additional training to enter the advanced emergency medical technician-paramedic classification. Paramedics are eligible to become supervisors and field training officers. Experienced field personnel can also transfer into medical communications or dispatch. Paramedics may also move into positions in hospital emergency rooms. Additionally, fire departments commonly have rescue units where there is a need for emergency medical technicians and paramedics. Emergency medical services is also a stepping stone into other health-related fields such as nursing, physician assistant, and physician.

## WHAT THE EMPLOYER SAID



### WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A POTENTIAL EMPLOYEE FOR THIS POSITION?

“Professionalism and patient care skills are the most important attributes we look for when interviewing a candidate for a position within our company. We are interested in people who are highly skilled, compassionate, and have a good work ethic. The days of only being an ambulance driver are gone. Emergency medical services has developed into a highly technical profession. People who are only interested in the adrenaline rush that comes from driving fast with lights and sirens when responding to an accident just aren’t what we are looking for. We need professionals who can handle stressful situations, take control of a scene, and work together as part of a team and the emergency medical service system as a whole.”

Ray Little, CEO/president  
Mobile Medical Response Inc.

# STAR PROFILE

This interview is intended to show you what is needed to be a star employee.



**EMPLOYEE:**  
**CARRIE CHAPMAN**

**OCCUPATION:**  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
TECHNICIAN – BASIC**

**COMPANY:**  
**MOBILE MEDICAL  
RESPONSE INC.**

## TELL US HOW YOU ATTAINED YOUR CURRENT POSITION.

My brother is a paramedic and he would talk about his job. He made it sound so interesting that I wanted to do the same kind of work. I always wanted a job where I could make a difference in someone's life. I took the emergency medical technician training, which lasts about five months with an emergency room and an ambulance rotation. I passed the National Registry test and applied at Mobile Medical Response. I had to pass a physical agility test and a blood test, and then was interviewed and got the job.

## DESCRIBE YOUR TYPICAL DAY.

I arrive at work 20 minutes before my shift begins to make sure that everything that is required is on the ambulance and in working order. Once the shift begins I run calls, transfer patients from one location to another, or am assigned to a Mobil Medical Response station so that there is ambulance coverage throughout the county.

## WHAT TRAINING AND EDUCATION DID YOU NEED TO ENTER THIS POSITION?

I needed to take the emergency medical technician training and pass the National Registry certification test.

## WHAT QUALITIES MAKE SOMEONE A "STAR" IN THIS OCCUPATION?

A star is somebody who always wants to learn more; who can take constructive criticism to better themselves; who does their best every day; and has a good attitude and can maintain it throughout the day.

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST/LEAST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

What I like best is to know every day I can make someone's life better. I can help them out when they are in dire need or when they are really sick.

What I like least is sitting for extended periods of time at the stations waiting for a call or a transfer.

## WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE SOMEONE SEEKING A JOB IN YOUR FIELD?

My advice for someone seeking a job as an emergency medical technician is to do well in math and science. In this job, you must be physically fit to lift patients and heavy equipment. Have a way to relieve stress outside of work and have good people skills so that you can interact with patients, families, and other emergency personnel.

## ARE THERE ANY LICENSES OR CERTIFICATIONS NEEDED FOR YOUR POSITION?

Yes. You must pass the National Registry certification test.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Career Ladders project began as a Saginaw County Vision 2020 initiative. To date, more than 300 individuals have been involved in the project. It is impossible to list them all, but the Comprehensive Education and Workforce Development Committee appreciates each one and the incredible participation by our major employers and educational institutions, as well as the support from the Arnold and Gertrude Boutell Memorial Fund, The Dow Chemical Company, The Dow Corning Foundation, the Fordney Club, the Hospital Council of East Central Michigan, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, the National Tooling and Machining Association – Saginaw Valley Chapter, the Saginaw Community Foundation, the Saginaw County Business and Education Partnership, the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Saginaw County's local school districts, Saginaw County's Promise, the Saginaw County Vision 2020, the Saginaw Future Inc., the Saginaw/Midland/Bay Michigan Works!, the Saginaw Township Business Association, the Saginaw Valley Manufacturers' Association, and the Saginaw Valley Tech Prep Partnership. We also want to thank NOVA for their guidance.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER/PROGRAM. AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.