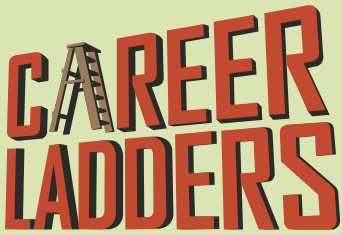


PARAMEDIC

Paramedics are responsible for conserving life, alleviating suffering, promoting health and transporting the sick or injured to a hospital or from one facility to another.



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.

A PARAMEDIC 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
- Hook up heart monitors, insert breathing tubes, insert intravenous therapy lines, and administer drugs

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

\$10.30-\$18.04/hour

WORKING CONDITIONS

Paramedics team up with an emergency medical technician 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. Paramedics 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. A paramedic must be able to lift heavy objects, including patients and equipment. Paramedics hook up heart monitors, insert breathing tubes, insert intravenous therapy lines, and administer drugs.

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 or health technology/medical science or 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
- Paramedic training

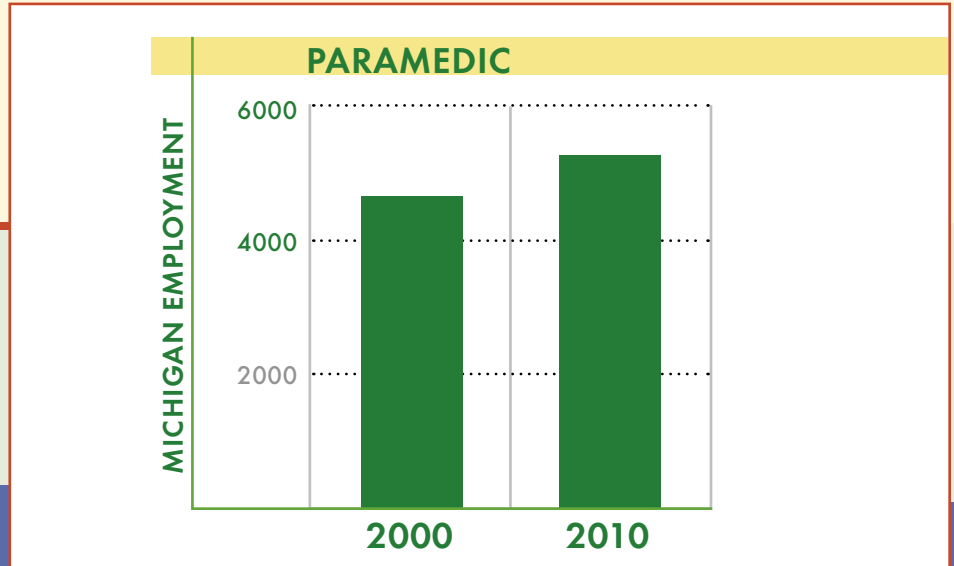
LOCAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROVIDERS

- 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. 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:
ERIC SNIDERSICH

OCCUPATION:
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL
TECHNICIAN –
PARAMEDIC**

COMPANY:
**MOBILE MEDICAL
RESPONSE INC.**

TELL US HOW YOU ATTAINED YOUR CURRENT POSITION.

After I completed my duties in the U.S. Air Force, I volunteered as an ambulance attendant in Florida. I completed my emergency medical technician training in 1991 and paramedic training in 1992. After relocating to Michigan, I worked as a paramedic for several years before becoming a supervisor.

DESCRIBE YOUR TYPICAL DAY.

Each day begins with an inspection of the ambulance to assure that all the equipment is functioning properly and that supplies are available. The crew checks in with the dispatch center for post assignments and then we drive out to our assigned area to wait for a call. About 50 percent of our calls are transferring patients to and from health care facilities. The other 50 percent are actually emergency calls, ranging from automobile accidents to medical emergencies.

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

In order to qualify for this career, I needed to complete both emergency medical technician and paramedic training and then pass the National Registry exam to obtain my state license. The most valuable part of the training experience was the hands-on training I got from the clinical rotations at the hospitals and the ride time in the ambulance.

WHAT QUALITIES MAKE SOMEONE A “STAR” IN THIS OCCUPATION?

A good paramedic is someone who can take charge of a situation and is confident in his or her abilities. You also have to be a good team player – and always a teacher. I think even more important than skills, though, is a love for the job and compassion for your patients.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST/LEAST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I get the most satisfaction from when I’m able to relieve someone’s pain and suffering and when helping someone who is helpless.

What I like least about the job is the down time when there are no calls and you are just waiting in the ambulance.

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

A good background in math and science is extremely helpful. This career is so much more technical and advanced today.

ARE THERE ANY LICENSES OR CERTIFICATIONS NEEDED FOR YOUR POSITION?

You must pass the National Registry test for certification as an emergency medical technician and paramedic and have your certification renewed every two years.

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.