

## **Functional Position Description – EMS Provider**

### **Introduction**

We are providing the following general position description of the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced EMT (AEMT), and Paramedic. Students interested in pursuing a career in the field of Emergency Medical Services

### **Qualifications**

The EMS Provider must be a confident leader who can accept the challenge and high degree of responsibility entailed in the position. The EMS Provider must have excellent judgement and be able to prioritize decisions and act quickly in the best interest of the patient, must be self-disciplined, able to develop patient rapport, interview hostile patients, maintain safe distance, and recognize and utilize communication unique to diverse multicultural groups and ages within those groups. Must be able to function independently at optimum level in a non-structured environment that is constantly changing.

Interested persons must successfully complete an EMS Division approved course. Achievement of a passing score on written and practical certification examinations is required. Must be at least 18 years of age. Generally, the knowledge and skills required show the need for a high school education or equivalent. Ability to communicate verbally via telephone and radio equipment; ability to lift, care and balance up to 125 pounds (250 with assistance); ability to interpret written, oral and diagnostic form instructions; ability to use good judgment and remain calm in high stress situations; ability to work effectively in an environment with loud noises and flashing lights; ability to function efficiently throughout an entire work shift; ability to calculate weight and volumes ratios and read small print, both under threatening time constraints; ability to read and understand the English language manuals and road maps; accurately discern street signs and address numbers; ability to interview patient, family members, and bystanders; ability to document, in writing, all relevant information in prescribed format in light of legal ramifications of such; ability to converse in English with co-workers and hospital staff as to status of patient.

Good manual dexterity, with ability to perform all tasks related to highest quality patient care. Ability to bend, stoop, and crawl on uneven terrain; and the ability to withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, cold, and moisture. Ability to work in low light, confined spaces and other dangerous environments.

The EMS Provider must be able to deal with adverse and often dangerous situations which include responding to calls in districts known to have high crime and mortality rates. Self-

confidence is critical, as is a desire to work with people, solid emotional stability, a tolerance for high stress, and the ability to meet the physical, intellectual, and cognitive requirements demanded by this position.

EMS providers poses the inherent occupational risks to include the following.

1. Violence/assaults
2. Verbal threats/aggression
3. Motor vehicle crashes
4. Infectious disease
5. Lifting injuries
6. Sprains and strains
7. Psychological trauma
8. Hazardous chemical exposure
9. Hyper/hypothermia

### **Competency Areas**

EMT – Must demonstrate competency handling emergencies utilizing all Basic Life Support equipment and skills in accordance with all behavioral and cognitive objectives in the National Education Standard Curriculum. Intravenous access is an optional skill and curriculum in the State of Colorado.

AEMT – Must demonstrate competency handling emergencies utilizing all basic and Advanced Life Support equipment and skills in accordance with all behavioral and cognitive objectives in the National Education Standard AEMT curriculum.

Paramedic – Must demonstrate handling emergencies utilizing all Basic and Advanced Life Support equipment and skills in accordance with all behavioral objectives in the National Education Standard Curriculum. A Critical Care Certificate may be obtained using a separate curriculum and evaluation process.

### **Description of Tasks**

Receives call from dispatcher, responds verbally to emergency calls, reads maps, may drive ambulance to emergency site, uses most expeditious route, and observes traffic ordinances and regulations. Determines nature and extent of illness or injury, takes pulse, blood pressure, visually observes changes in skin color, auscultated breath sounds, makes determination regarding patient status, establishes priority for emergency care, renders appropriate emergency care (based on competency level; may administer intravenous drugs or fluid replacement as directed by physician. May use equipment (based on competency level) such

as but not limited to, defibrillator, electrocardiograph, performs endotracheal intubation to open airways and ventilate patient. Assists in lifting, carrying, and transporting patient to ambulance and onto a medical facility. Reassures patients and bystanders, avoids mishandling patient and undue haste, searches for medical identification emblem to aid in care. Must be able to apply basic principles of mathematics to the calculation of problems associated with medication dosages, perform conversion problems, differentiate temperature reading between centigrade and Fahrenheit scales, be able to use proper advanced life support equipment and supplies ( i.e. proper size of intravenous needles ) based on patient's age and condition of veins, and be able to locate sites for obtaining blood samples and perform this task, administer medication intravenously, administer medications by gastric tube, administer oral medications, administer rectal medications, and comply with universal pre-cautions and body substance isolation, disposing of contaminated items and equipment properly.

Extricates patient from entrapment, assesses extent of injury, uses prescribed techniques and appliances, radios dispatcher for additional assistance or services, provides light rescue services if required, provides additional emergency care following established protocols. Complies with regulations in handling deceased, notifies authorities, and arranges for protection of property and evidence at scene. Determines appropriate facility to which patient will be transported, report nature and extent of injuries or illness to the facility, asks for direction from hospital physician or emergency department or according to published protocols. Identifies diagnostic signs that require communication with facility. Assist in removing patient from ambulance and into emergency facility, reports verbally and in writing observations about and care of patient at the scene and en-route to facility, provides assistance to emergency staff as required. Replaces supplies, sends used supplies for sterilization, checks all equipment for future readiness, and maintained ambulance in operable condition, ensures ambulance cleanliness and orderliness of equipment and supplies, decontaminates vehicle interior, determines vehicle readiness by checking oil, gas, water in battery and radiator, and tire pressure, maintains familiarity with all specialized equipment.

The EMS Provider is personally responsible, legally, ethically, and morally for all care provided in the patient care setting.

**Statement of Receipt for  
Functional Position Description  
Emergency Medical Services Provider**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have received and read the information regarding the competencies and tasks of the Emergency Medical Services Provider as described in the "Functional Position Description - Emergency Medical Services Provider". I further understand that should I have any questions regarding the standard functional job description as it pertains to the American's with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 I shall communicate those questions openly and freely with any faculty member of the EMS Academy at Arapahoe Community College.

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Signature

Date