

CAREER PROFILE



Firefighter

JOB DESCRIPTION

Firefighters control and put out fires. They respond to emergencies involving life, property, or the environment.

PAY

\$57,120 median annual salary (approximately \$27.46/hour) as of May 2023.

JOB OUTLOOK

4% (average) for 2022-2032

TRAINING/CERTIFICATION

Firefighters typically need a high school diploma and emergency medical services training. Other credential requirements, such as emergency medical technician (EMT) certification, vary by state or locality. Fire academies have different requirements, but most want students to be between the ages of 18 and 45 and to have a high school degree or equivalent. Students must be in excellent physical and mental condition to be able to pass the rigorous training of the fire academy.

IMPORTANT SKILLS

- **Communication skills** to explain conditions to response crews
- **Compassion** for helping people in crisis
- **Decision-making skills**, including the ability to make difficult decisions quickly under pressure
- **Mental preparedness** including the ability to thrive in stressful situations and have a calming manner
- **Physical stamina** for working long hours/days
- **Physical strength** to carry heavy equipment and move



EMT

JOB DESCRIPTION

An Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) cares for patients at the scene of an incident and while taking patients by ambulance to a hospital. An EMT has the skills to assess a patient's condition and to manage respiratory, cardiac and trauma emergencies. This certificate/area of specialization also serves as a prerequisite for paramedic training.

An Advanced EMT has completed both requirements for the EMT-Basic level and instruction to perform more advanced medical procedures, such as administering intravenous fluids and some medications.

PAY

\$38,930 median annual salary (\$18.73/hour) as of May 2023.

JOB OUTLOOK

5% (average) for 2022-2032

TRAINING/CERTIFICATION

- Complete state-approved EMT training (typically 4-6 months, minimum of 150 hours including class, lab and clinical work).
- Hold a valid American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) certification.
- Pass the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) certification exam (which must be renewed every two years to remain certified).

IMPORTANT SKILLS FOR EMTS & PARAMEDICS

- **Communication skills** to provide clear instructions, explain procedures, listen to patients describe their symptoms and conveying information to dispatchers and others.
- **Compassion** to provide care and emotional support to patients who may be in life-threatening situations or under extreme mental distress.
- **Interpersonal skills** to coordinate activities with other team members and also interact with a variety of people.
- **Physical strength** to bend, lift, and kneel over the course of their shift.
- **Problem-solving skills** to evaluate patients' symptoms and determine the appropriate treatment.



Paramedic

JOB DESCRIPTION

Paramedics work under a physician's direction to recognize, assess, and manage medical emergencies of acutely ill or injured patients in prehospital care settings. They provide more extensive care than EMTs including administering a wider range of medications, performing advanced airflow management, and interpreting electrocardiograms (EKGs) and other types of equipment. They learn how to assess the nature and extent of injuries and illnesses and prioritize the procedures to be followed. Basic skills:

- Open airways/Restore breathing
- Control bleeding
- Administer oxygen
- Administer drugs
- Interpret electrocardiograms
- Perform endotracheal intubation and use other complex equipment

PAY

\$53,180 median annual salary (\$25.57/hour) as of May 2023.

JOB OUTLOOK

5% (average) for 2022-2032

TRAINING/CERTIFICATION

- Complete a state-approved paramedic program (one year/three semesters) which will include a minimum of 600 combined didactic and laboratory hours and 450 combined clinical and field hours
- Pass the NREMT exam to be certified.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

OHIO EMS TRAINING: ems.ohio.gov/

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

	City of Cleveland Cleveland	Cuyahoga Community College Cleveland, Parma	Cuyahoga Valley Career Ctr Brecksville
Firefighter	X	X	
EMT	X	X	X
Advanced EMT		X	
Paramedic		X	
Emergency Medical Responder		X	X

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

ASHTABULA COUNTY

	Premier Health & Safety Academy Brooklyn	UH Parma Medical Center Parma	Ashtabula County Career and Technical Center Ashtabula
Firefighter			X
EMT	X	X	X
Advanced EMT	X		
Paramedic	X	X	
Emergency Medical Responder	X		X

GEAUGA COUNTY

LAKE COUNTY

PORTAGE COUNTY

	UH Geauga Medical Ctr Chardon	Auburn Career Ctr Concord Twp	Lakeland Community College Kirtland	UH Portage Medical Ctr Ravenna
Firefighter		X	X (Fire Science)	
EMT	X	X	X	X
Advanced EMT	X	X		X
Paramedic	X	X	X	X
Emergency Medical Responder	X			X