



FIREFIGHTER

JOB DESCRIPTION

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

PAY: \$59,530 median annual wage (approx. \$28.62/hour) as of May 2024

JOB OUTLOOK: 3% (average) for 2024-2034

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. Requirements vary by fire department, but most require students to be between the ages of 18 and 45 and have a high school degree or equivalent. Students must be in excellent physical and mental condition 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 debris



EMT

JOB DESCRIPTION

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) care for patients at the scene of an incident and while transporting them to a hospital by ambulance. An EMT is trained to assess a patient's condition and 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: \$41,340 median annual wage (\$19.87/hour) as of May 2024

JOB OUTLOOK: 5% (faster than average) for 2024-2034

TRAINING/CERTIFICATION

- Complete state-approved EMT training (typically 4-6 months, 150-hour minimum, 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 convey 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 interact with a variety of people
- Physical strength to bend, lift, and kneel
- 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 settings. They provide more extensive care than EMTs, including administering a wider range of medications, performing advanced airway management, and interpreting EKGs and other types of equipment. Paramedics can assess the nature and extent of injuries and illnesses and prioritize the procedures to be followed. Basic skills include:

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

PAY: \$58,410 median annual wage (\$28.08/hour) as of May 2024

JOB OUTLOOK: 5% (faster than average) for 2024-2034

TRAINING/CERTIFICATION

- Hold a valid state EMT certification
- Hold a valid CPR certificate
- Complete a one-year, three-semester state-approved paramedic program with a minimum of 600 didactic and laboratory hours and 450 combined clinical and field hours
- Pass the NREMT exam

CERTIFICATE/TRAINING PROGRAMS

OHIO EMS TRAINING: ems.ohio.gov/

	CUYAHOGA COUNTY				
	City of Cleveland (Cleveland)	Cuyahoga Community College (Cleveland, Parma)	Cuyahoga Valley Career Center (Brecksville)	Premier Health & Safety Academy (Brooklyn)	UH Parma Medical Center (Parma)
Firefighter	X	X			
EMT	X	X	X	X	X
Advanced EMT		X		X	
Paramedic		X		X	

	ASHTABULA COUNTY	GEAUGA COUNTY	LAKE COUNTY		PORTAGE COUNTY
	Ashtabula County Career & Technical Center (Ashtabula)	UH Geauga Medical Center (Chardon)	Auburn Career Ctr (Concord Twp)	Lakeland Community College (Kirtland)	UH Portage Medical Ctr (Ravenna)
Firefighter	X		X	X (Fire Science)	
EMT	X	X	X	X	X
Advanced EMT		X	X		X
Paramedic		X	X	X	
Emergency Medical Responder			X		

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

PERRY FIRE CADETS

Based at the Perry Fire Department, cadets aged 13-20 attend training sessions several times a month to gain hands-on experience in fire suppression, emergency medical services (EMS), and rescue operations.

www.perryfire-lake.com/explorers-259