



# About EMS

**What is EMS?** EMS stands for Emergency Medical Services. Throughout the U.S., EMS practitioners provide prehospital emergency medical care. EMS practitioners respond when people call 911 for medical help and are experiencing a medical emergency, including heart attack, difficulty breathing, an accident or fall, drowning, cardiac arrest, stroke, drug overdose or acute illness. EMS professionals may provide both basic and advanced medical care at the scene of an emergency and en route to a hospital.

**What is an EMS system?** EMS is much more than an ambulance service. It includes a call center to receive calls and dispatch help; those who respond first, such as police officers and firefighters; an ambulance transportation team of EMTs and/or Paramedics; physicians and nurses who provide advice via radio or phone; air medical services, such as helicopters and small airplanes; hospital receiving facilities; and governmental and medical oversight.

**Who provides EMS?** When a person becomes ill or injured and dials 911, the call is answered by an EMS dispatcher who is trained to obtain key information from the caller about the location and type of emergency. The dispatcher also may give the caller patient care instructions while sending emergency responders to the scene of the emergency.

These responders include:

- Emergency Medical Responders
- Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)
- Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians
- Paramedics

The training level needed for EMS practitioners is a state decision. Each level of EMS practitioner is trained to perform different skills to assist patients.

EMS practitioners work under protocols approved by a physician medical director who oversees the care of patients in the EMS system, and is knowledgeable about patient care interventions and how EMS systems deliver care. Typically, EMS medical directors work in conjunction with local EMS leaders to assure quality patient care. EMS care may be provided by private ambulance companies, fire or police departments, a public EMS agency, a hospital or by a combination of these. EMS practitioners may be paid workers or community volunteers.



**What skills does an EMT perform?** EMTs can perform CPR, artificial ventilations, oxygen administration, basic airway management, defibrillation using an AED, spinal immobilization, monitoring of vital signs and bandaging/splinting. They also may administer nitroglycerin, glucose, epinephrine and albuterol in special circumstances.

**What skills does a Paramedic perform?** A Paramedic has extensive training in patient assessment and participates in a variety of clinical experiences during training. He or she can perform all of the skills performed by an EMT, plus advanced airway management such as endotracheal intubation, electrocardiographs (ECGs), insertion of intravenous lines, administration of numerous emergency medications, and assessment of ECG tracings and defibrillation.

# EMS Statistics

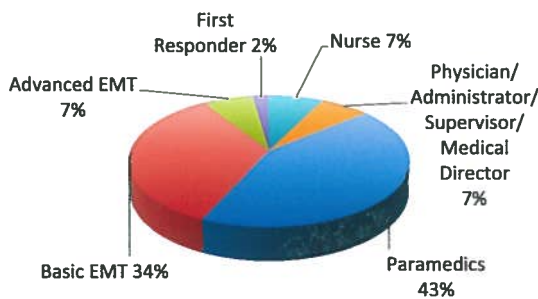


NAEMT members encompass both paid and volunteer EMS practitioners, working on a full-time and part-time basis. Practitioner types include EMTs, Advanced EMTs and Paramedics, with emergency medical responders, nurses and other allied health and medical professionals making up a small percentage of our membership. NAEMT members work in all sectors of EMS.

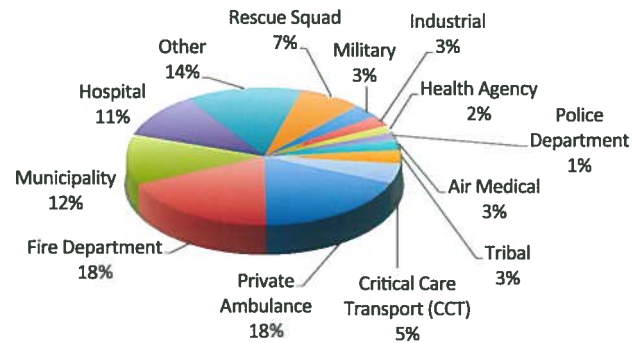
## Member Demographics



## Member Careers



## Member Employment



## 911 Information

An estimated 240 million calls are made to 911 in the U.S. each year. According to the FCC, one-third are wireless calls; in many communities, it's one half or more of all 911 calls. As of January 2014, the U.S. has 6,050 primary and secondary Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and 3,135 counties, which include parishes, cities, boroughs and U.S. Census areas.

In Wireless Phase I, the call taker automatically receives the wireless phone number and the location of the cell tower handling the call. This is important, because if the call is dropped, PSAP employees can work with the wireless company to identify the subscriber. The call is routed to a PSAP based on cell site/sector information. In Wireless Phase II, call takers receive both the caller's wireless phone number and their location information. The call is routed to a PSAP either based on cell site/sector information or on caller location information. Text-to-911 capabilities have been implemented on some wireless carriers.

Based on a preliminary assessment of the most recent FCC quarterly filings:

- 98.5% of PSAPs have some Phase I
- 97.6% of PSAPs have some Phase II
- 96.0% of counties have some Phase I
- 94.5% of counties have some Phase II
- 98.6% of the population has some Phase I
- 98.3% of the population has some Phase II

The term 'some' means that some or all wireless carriers have implemented either Phase I or Phase II service in the county or the PSAPs. In order for any carrier to provide service, the county or PSAP must be capable of receiving the service. In most cases, all carriers are implemented in a county or PSAP, but one or more may be in the process of completing the implementation.

Source: National Emergency Number Association, 1/14