

DISCOVERING QUALITY JOBS

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

WHAT ARE QUALITY JOBS?

Quality Jobs offer competitive wages and benefits, predictable hours, and opportunities for advancement without requiring a college degree. They exist in high-growth industries that value skills gained through alternative routes such as training programs, military service, lived experience, and more.

WHAT ARE EMTs?

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) respond to emergency calls, assess patients, and provide basic medical care such as controlling bleeding, assisting with breathing, and stabilizing injuries. Often the first responders on the scene, EMTs quickly evaluate situations and determine next steps. They also safely transport patients to healthcare facilities.

YOU MIGHT ENJOY THIS JOB IF YOU ARE:

- Calm and able to make sound decisions under pressure.
- Motivated to help people during emergencies.
- Able to work in fast-paced, team-based environments.
- Interested in a physically demanding role.
- Interested in nontraditional schedules, including long shifts with more consecutive time off.

THEY WORK AT:

Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers - Public and Private



Hospitals and Emergency Departments



Fire departments with EMS divisions

Community or Non-Profit Response Organizations



Industrial, Event, or Wildland Fire Settings

THEY ARE ALSO KNOWN AS:

EMT-Basic

Ambulance Technician

EMS Technician

Event EMT / Standby EMT

Industrial EMT

Wildland Fire EMT (EMT-F)

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A QUALITY JOB:



Living Wages: Starting pay is **\$20–\$26 per hour**. EMTs in metro areas or specialized roles may earn higher wages, with extra pay available for some shifts and overtime.



Accessible Hiring Practices: **No degree required.** Short-term training is available. EMS agencies aim to make hiring fair, accessible, and supportive so more people can enter the field.



Comprehensive Benefits: Many employers offer a full benefit package, including medical, dental, vision, paid time off, and retirement savings, which can **increase your total compensation by up to 30%**.



Training and Advancement Opportunities: **Employers offer ongoing training, continuing education, and support career advancement** into Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT), Paramedic, and other healthcare roles.

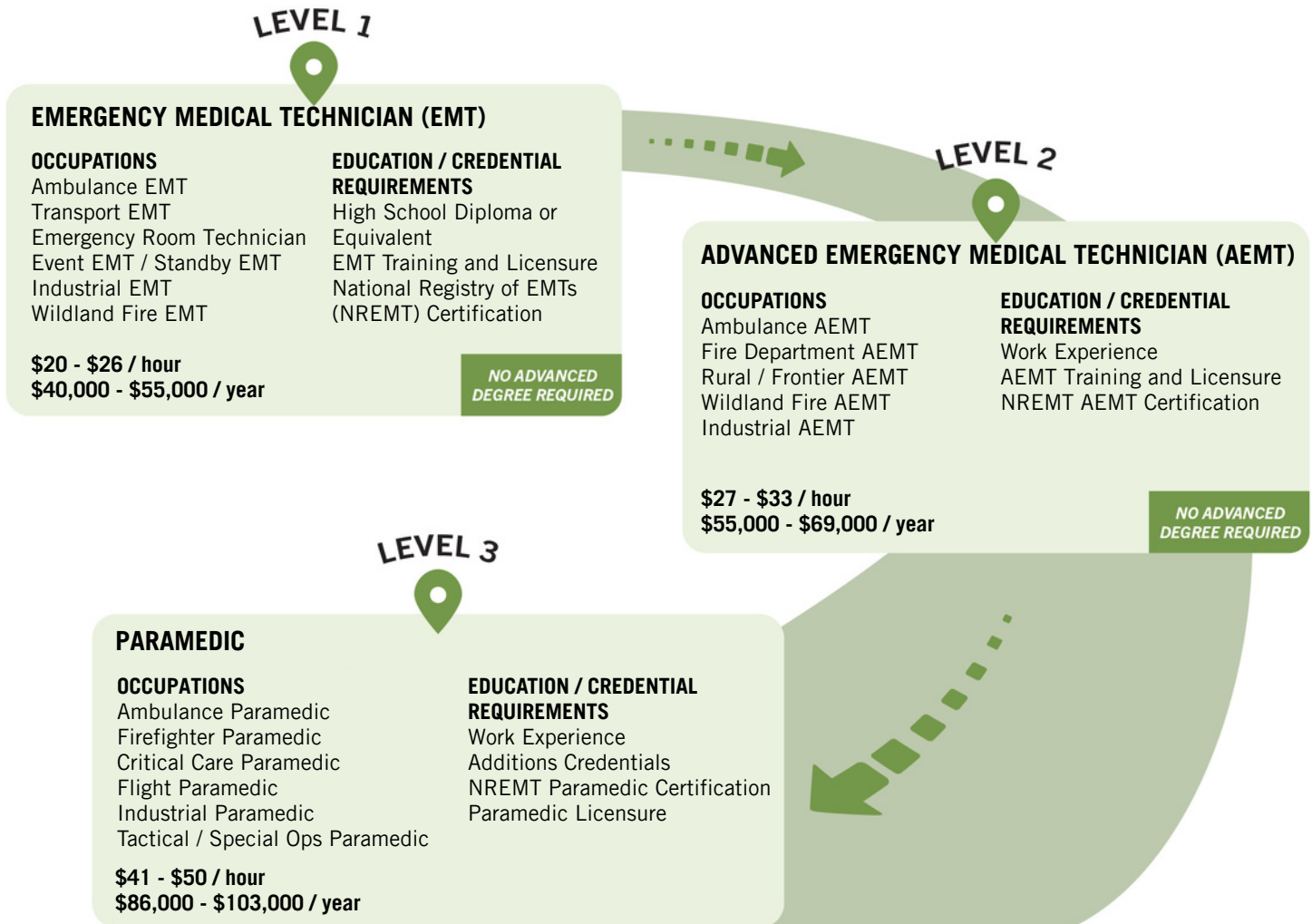


Predictable Schedule: EMTs work long, nontraditional 12-, 24-, or 48-hour shifts, including nights, weekends, and holidays, but often benefit from extended time off and schedule flexibility.



Worker Safety and Engagement: EMT roles **emphasize standardized safety protocols**, use of protective equipment, and team-based support, helping workers stay safe, connected, and engaged in public service.

CAREER PATHWAYS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS



COMMON QUALIFICATIONS:

- 18 years or older
- High School Diploma or GED equivalent
- Valid driver's license (required by most employers)
- Ability to pass a background check and drug screening
- Physical ability to lift, move, and assist patients and work in emergency conditions

INSIDER TIPS:

- If advancement matters, seek agencies that invest in continuing education and professional development.
- Strong communication skills—radio use, handoffs, and documentation—help EMTs stand out early.
- Workforce shortages in rural areas create opportunities for hands-on experience and career growth.



GET STARTED

CONNECT WITH A WORKSOURCE REP

Talk to your career coach or get in touch with a WorkSource representative today at worksourceportlandmetro.org.

GET A HEAD START

WorkSource offers scholarships for training and certification. Learn more about applying by attending a free virtual info session.

Visit worksourceportlandmetro.org/events to register.