

Job Description – Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)

Duties/Responsibilities:

An Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) may function in the context of a broader role, i.e., law enforcement, fire rescue or industrial response. With a limited amount of equipment, the EMR answers emergency calls to provide efficient and immediate care to ill and injured patients. After receiving notification of an emergency, the EMR safely responds to the address or location given, using the most expeditious route, depending on traffic and weather conditions. The EMR must observe traffic ordinances and regulations concerning emergency vehicle operation. The EMR:

- Functions in uncommon situations while remaining calm;
- Has a basic understanding of stress response and methods to ensure personal well-being;
- Has an understanding of body substance isolation;
- Understands basic medical-legal principles;
- Functions within the scope of care as defined by state, regional and local regulatory agencies;
- Complies with regulations on the handling of the deceased, protection of property and evidence at the scene, while awaiting additional EMS resources.

Before initiating patient care, the EMR will "size-up" the scene to determine if the scene is safe, to identify the mechanism of injury or nature of illness, the total number of patients and to request additional help, if necessary. In the absence of law enforcement, the EMR creates a safe traffic environment, such as the placement of road flares, removal of debris and redirection of traffic for the protection of the injured and those assisting in the care of injured patients. Using a limited amount of equipment, the EMR renders emergency medical care to adults, children and infants based on assessment findings. Duties include but are not limited to:

- Opening and maintaining an airway;
- Ventilating patients;
- Administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
- Providing emergency medical care of simple and multiple system trauma such as:
- Controlling hemorrhage,
- Bandaging wounds,
- Manually stabilizing injured extremities.
- Providing emergency medical care to:
- Assist in childbirth
- Manage general medical complaints, altered mental status, seizures, environmental emergencies, behavioral emergencies and psychological crises.
- Searching for medical identification emblems as a guide to appropriate emergency medical care.
- Reassuring patients and bystanders by working in a confident, efficient manner.
- Avoiding mishandling and undue haste while working expeditiously to accomplish the task.

Where a patient must be extricated from entrapment, the EMR:

- Assesses the extent of injury and assists other EMS providers rendering emergency medical care and protection to the entrapped patient
- Performs emergency moves and assists other EMS providers in the use of prescribed techniques and appliances for safely removing the patient
- Assists other EMS providers, in lifting the stretcher, placing the stretcher in the ambulance, and seeing that the patient and stretcher are secured
- If needed, radios the dispatcher for additional help or special rescue and/or utility services
- In case of multiple patients, performs basic triage.
- Reports directly to the responding EMS unit, emergency department or the communications center the nature and extent of injuries, the number of patients, and the condition of each patient.
- Identifies assessment findings that may require communicating with medical control for advice.
- Constantly assesses patient and administers additional care while awaiting additional EMS resources and while enroute to the emergency facility.

For purposes of records and diagnostics the EMR reports verbally and in writing, observations and emergency medical care of the patient at the emergency scene and in transit, to the responding EMS unit or the receiving medical facility staff. Upon request, the EMR provides assistance to the transporting unit staff or the receiving medical facility staff.

After each call, the EMR:

- Restocks and replaces used supplies,
- Cleans all equipment following appropriate disinfecting procedures,
- Carefully checks all equipment to ensure the availability for the next response
- Maintains emergency vehicle in efficient operating condition
- Ensures that the emergency vehicle is clean and washed and kept in a neat orderly condition
- In accordance with local, state or federal regulations, decontaminates the interior of any vehicle used to transport patients after transport of a patient with contagious infection or hazardous materials exposure.