

PPSC Advanced EMT

Functional Job Analysis

Advanced EMT Characteristics

The Advanced EMT (AEMT) must be a confident leader who can accept the challenge and high level of responsibility the position entails. The AEMT must have excellent judgment and be able to prioritize decisions and act quickly in the patient's best interest; must be self-disciplined, able to build patient rapport, interview hostile patients, maintain safe distance, and recognize and utilize communication unique to diverse multicultural groups and ages within those groups. Must be able to function independently at an optimum level in a non-structured environment that is constantly changing.

The AEMT is generally part of a two-person team with either a lower-skill and knowledge-level Basic EMT or a higher-skill and knowledge-level Paramedic. The AEMT is held responsible for safe and therapeutic administration of drugs, including narcotics, when attending to the patient. Therefore, the AEMT must not only know about medications but also apply that knowledge in a practical sense. Knowledge and practical application of medications include thoroughly knowing and understanding the general properties of all types of drugs within their scope as defined at the National and State level.

The AEMT will perform advanced care with interventions beyond the Basic EMT level. They will develop deeper knowledge of the pathophysiology of conditions, enabling critical thinking and the responsibility to intervene to mitigate specific life-threatening conditions.

The AEMT must not only remain calm during difficult and stressful circumstances but must be capable of staying focused while assuming the leadership role inherent in carrying out the functions of the position. Good judgment, along with advanced knowledge and technical skills, is essential to directing team members as needed. The AEMT must concurrently be able to provide top-quality care, handle high levels of stress, and be willing to take on the personal responsibility required of the position. This includes not only the legal ramifications of precise documentation, but also the responsibility to use the knowledge and skills acquired in real life-threatening emergency situations. The AEMT must be able to handle adverse and often dangerous situations, including responding to calls in districts known to have high crime and mortality rates. Self-confidence is critical, as is a desire to work with people, solid emotional stability, a tolerance for high stress, and the ability to meet the physical, intellectual, and cognitive requirements demanded by this position.

Physical Demands

Aptitudes required for work of this nature are good physical stamina, endurance, and body condition that would not be adversely affected by frequently having to walk, stand, lift, carry, and balance at times, in excess of 125 pounds. Motor coordination is necessary because, over uneven terrain, the patient's, the AEMT's, and other workers' well-being must not be jeopardized.

Comments

The AEMT provides advanced pre-hospital care and may work for fire departments, private ambulance services, police departments, or hospitals. Response times depend on the nature of the call. For example, an AEMT working for a private ambulance service that transports the elderly from nursing homes to routine medical appointments and check-ups may face somewhat less stressful circumstances than an AEMT who works primarily with 911 calls in districts known for high crime rates. Thus, the stresses inherent in the AEMT role can vary depending on location and type of employment.

However, in general, the analyst believes the AEMT must be flexible to meet the demands of the ever-changing emergency scene. When emergencies occur, situations can be complex, and patient care must begin immediately. In essence, the AEMT in the EMS system uses advanced training and equipment to extend emergency physician services to the ambulance. The AEMT must make accurate, independent judgments while following oral directives. Performing duties in a timely manner is essential, as it can mean the difference between life and death for the patient.

Use of the telephone, radio, or electronic dispatch to coordinate prompt emergency services is required, as is other technology, depending on the place of employment. Accurately identifying street names through map reading and correctly distinguishing house numbers or business addresses are essential to completing tasks as quickly as possible. Concisely and accurately describing orally one's impression of the patient's condition to the dispatcher and other concerned staff is critical, as the AEMT works in emergency conditions where there may not be time for deliberation. The AEMT must also accurately report, orally and in writing, all relevant patient data. At times, reporting may require a detailed narrative about extenuating circumstances or conditions that go beyond what a prescribed form requires. The AEMT must enter data on a laptop in the ambulance. AEMTs use verbal and reasoning skills extensively.