EMT vs. EMT-P: What’s the difference?

An Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) is trained and certified in basic life support (BLS) practices. All Aromas Tri-County Fire District personnel are required to be EMT’s. An Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic (EMT-P) is trained on all the requirements to become an EMT as well as several hundreds of hours more. EMT-Paramedics are highly trained, skilled professionals licensed in advanced life support (ALS) practices. Currently there are NO EMT-P’s assigned to the Aromas Tri-County Fire District. Training and skill requirements are one of the main differences between EMT’s and EMT-Paramedics. A comparison of eligibility, training requirements, scope of practice and certification provisions is listed.

**Eligibility** - 18 years old

**Minimum Training Requirements** -

160 Hours Total

- 136 Didactic
- 24 clinical
- 10 BLS patient contacts

**Minimum Scope of Practice** -

- Patient Assessment
- Advanced First Aid
- Transportation of ill and injured people
- Use of adjunctive breathing aids, Oxygen administration (BLS Airway)
- Automated External Defibrillator (AED)
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
- Bleeding control including tourniquets.
- Pulse Oximetry
- Humidifiers
- Continuous positive airway pressure.

**Certification Provisions** -

- Certified locally, valid statewide
- 2 year certification with skills competency verification every 2 years
- 24 hour Continuing Education Units

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**Eligibility** - 18 years old, HS diploma, EMT certificate, CPR card.

**Minimum Training Requirements** -

1090 Hours Total

- 450 hours Didactic & skills lab
- 160 hours hospital clinical training
- 480 hours field internship
- 40 ALS patient contacts

**Minimum Scope of Practice** -

- All EMT skills
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Basic & Advanced airway including:
  - Laryngoscope, Endotracheal Intubation, Needle thoracostomy & cricothyroidotomy,
  - Naso/orogastric tube insertion/suction
- Intravenous (IV) access
- Pharmacology of at least 25 medications
- Administer medications & solutions via various routes.
- Utilization & monitoring of electrocardiographic (ECG) devices.
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support
- Prehospital Trauma Life Support

**Certification Provisions** -

- Licensed by the State, valid statewide, local accreditation
- 2 year licensure
- 48 hour Continuing Education Units every 2 years
- Maintain currency of required certifications (CPR, ACLS, PALS) every 2 years