

# What is EMS?



Emergency Medical Services, more commonly known as EMS, is a system that responds to emergencies in need of highly skilled pre-hospital clinicians. EMS clinicians aren't just the first healthcare practitioners on the scene, they're often the first to identify a healthcare crisis in a community and act as a critical component of emergency management and, increasingly, a practitioner of community healthcare.

EMS is most recognizable by its vehicles, helicopters, and workforce, which respond to emergency incidents. But far from being simply a ride to the emergency department, this system of coordinated response and emergency medical care involves numerous people and agencies. A comprehensive EMS system is ready every day for every kind of emergency, whether that includes going to the hospital or not.

EMS does not exist in isolation. EMS operates at the crossroads of healthcare, public health, emergency management and public safety. EMS clinicians respond to all kinds of emergencies, hazards, and natural and man-made disasters, they often work side-by-side with public safety colleagues in law enforcement and fire service, with the primary mission of providing emergency medical care.

EMS also plays a role in non-emergent medical care. Community Paramedicine, also known as Mobile Integrated Healthcare, is a patient-centered healthcare model in which EMS clinicians provide care outside the emergency response system, frequently through scheduled visits in the patient's home.

These patients are often from populations without ready access to healthcare or health insurance. Community paramedics work closely with primary care physicians, social services, and other preventive services, resulting in patients making fewer emergency calls for help and experiencing better health outcomes.

EMS clinicians also play an important role in mental health and behavioral health crisis services. The ideal crisis response model is an integrated service involving EMS, mental health professionals and sometimes law enforcement to provide caring, high-quality support to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. The goal of crisis services is to increase access to quality mental and behavioral healthcare for those in need.

Here at [Yavapai College](#), we offer four paths to prepare you for a job in the EMS field.

***Emergency Medical Technician Certificate***

***Paramedicine Certificate***

***Associates of Applied Science in Paramedicine***

***Community Health/Critical Care Paramedic Certificate***

