

There is a national trend for all public safety agencies to consolidate activities under a single 9-1-1 communications center. All of these centers will require trained EMDs to manage the medical emergencies that arise. Population growth is also having a positive affect on employment, since all these new areas that are becoming populated need full-time emergency services personnel to handle the increased workload. Anyone who can remain calm in emergency situations and possesses good communication skills should consider a career in emergency medical dispatching.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

National Academy of Emergency
Medical Dispatch
139 East South Temple, Suite 530
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
Phone: (800) 960-6236
Fax: (801) 359-0996
Web: www.naemd.org

Associated Public Safety
Communications Officers
2040 South Ridgewood
South Daytona, FL 32119-8437
Phone: (904) 322-2500
Web: www.apcointl.org

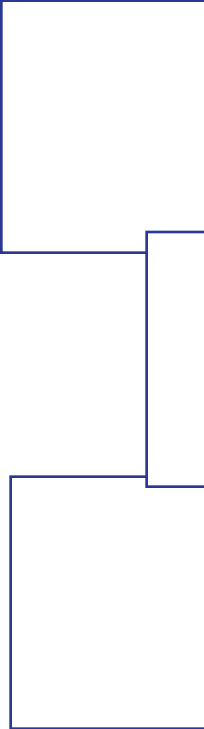


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POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Emergency medical dispatchers, or EMDs, are vital members of the emergency response system. They are usually the first professionals to receive an emergency call about a suddenly ill or injured person. They respond to 9-1-1 and other emergency calls by dispatching the appropriate medical or rescue personnel (police, fire, ambulance, etc.) to the scene. EMDs must be able to manage all incoming calls and carefully question the caller in order to determine the type of emergency that exists, the geographical location of the incident, and the extent of any injuries suffered. They also stay in contact with EMTs in the ambulance so that they can better coordinate with the medical staff at area hospitals. This requires an individual that works well under pressure and is able to solve problems quickly. Emergency medical dispatchers may also be called upon to give a caller instructions over the phone until emergency service professionals arrive. Some examples of this are keeping themselves and the victim calm, giving CPR, delivering a baby, or stopping life-threatening bleeding. EMDs must be able to maintain detailed records of information that is received and any services that are needed. This profession also requires an individual to be comfortable with sophis-

ticated computer and telecommunications equipment, as well as have exceptional communication skills.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Emergency medical dispatchers usually work out of dispatch centers in a variety of settings, including police stations, fire stations, hospitals, or an independent city or county program. This profession can be very demanding and stressful so the dispatcher must be able to respond quickly and efficiently in critical situations.

HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

Students interested in a career as an emergency medical dispatcher should take high school courses in algebra, biology, English, psychology, computer skills, typing, first aid, public speaking, foreign languages, telephone communications, and health occupations/medical professions education.

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

Individuals interested in emergency medical dispatching should have a high school diploma or equivalent. Educational and training requirements vary greatly depending upon the employer. EMDs often have a background in communications and receive some form of on-the-job training.

They need to know basic communications equipment and be certified through a state program. Students interested in emergency medical dispatching should take a course in emergency medical dispatching information systems as part of their study.

EDUCATION

There are no formal educational requirements for emergency medical dispatching in Mississippi. Students interested in a career as an emergency medical dispatcher should contact the local emergency medical dispatching center below for information on the requirements of course and vary greatly.

Average Annual Salary Range

Employment Outlook
The employment outlook for emergency medical dispatching is very good. The near future is expected to see growth in the number of dispatchers over the next few years.