

There are many promising occupations in the health field. Prepare yourself for growing career opportunities as a paramedic or emergency medical dispatcher.

Paramedics and emergency medical dispatchers, who are also trained paramedics, provide pre-hospital medical care and comfort to people who are having a medical emergency. Paramedics are often the first people on the scene of medical emergencies where they assess the situation and provide immediate care. They administer a broad range of medical treatments including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), oxygen, bandaging, and intravenous treatment. Other members of the emergency health care team rely on the records provided by emergency medical dispatchers as they continue care for their patients.

In addition to their direct patient care duties, paramedics transport people to hospitals or other medical facilities by air, land, or water; maintain their emergency medical equipment and vehicles; and may be required to train and/or supervise others on their team.

MORE INFORMATION

Programs

Emergency Health Services
 Search for Approved Paramedic Training Programs
www.gov.ns.ca/health/ehs

Department of Education
 Private Career Colleges
pcc.EDnet.ns.ca

Professional Organizations

Emergency Health Services
www.gov.ns.ca/health/ehs

Career and Job Prospects

Nova Scotia Career and Labour Market Information
 For up-to-date information visit
www.novascotiacareeroptions.ca

Job Futures

Canada's National Career and Education Planning Tool
www.jobfutures.ca

Human Resources and Skill Development Canada

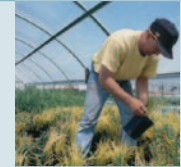
National Occupation Classification (NOC)
www23.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca

NOC Code Search
 Paramedic: 3234



Career Pathways Series

PARAMEDICS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCHERS



Information for High School Students

PERSONAL SKILLS

NEEDED

Paramedics and emergency medical dispatchers require strong decision-making and people skills in order to react responsibly and compassionately in emergencies. They need to be dedicated individuals who are committed to working as part of a professional health care team.

People who succeed have skills and abilities that include the following:

- sound judgement and decision-making skills, especially under pressure
- excellent speaking and writing skills
- physical endurance and strength
- excellent problem-solving skills
- technological skills
- excellent health
- personal record clear of any criminal activity
- thoroughness and precision
- people and teamwork skills, including sensitive handling of stressed patients
- flexibility and adaptability for working a variety of shift hours

WHERE THEY

WORK

Paramedics may work in

- private ambulance services
- hospitals
- government departments and agencies
- manufacturing firms
- mining companies
- other private sector companies

WHAT THEY

EARN

Average hourly income: \$20.00

Minimum: \$17.75

Maximum: \$24.50



In Nova Scotia, paramedics and emergency medical dispatchers are part of the Emergency Medical System (EMS) and are regulated by the Nova Scotia Department of Health. Only registered paramedics may operate an ambulance for EMS in Nova Scotia. Ambulance services are contracted out and managed by a private company.

Paramedics are trained to perform differing levels of medical procedures.

Additional training results in increasing responsibility as well as income. The following paramedic designations are regulated in Nova Scotia by the Emergency Medical System office:

- Primary Care Paramedic (PCP)/P1
- Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP)/P3
- Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD)

REQUIRED

COURSES

High School

To prepare for a paramedic program, complete a high school diploma which includes at least two science courses.

Post Secondary

In Atlantic Canada, most post-secondary training programs are one-year diploma programs offered through private career colleges. These programs provide classroom as well as clinical experience. In addition to high school graduation or equivalency, programs often require a current Class 4 driver's licence and a current first aid certificate. All schools providing paramedic training perform police criminal record checks on all eligible applicants.

Graduates of paramedical training programs may seek further career mobility and opportunities by taking additional training.

For program admission and licensing requirements, visit the links on the back of this brochure.

Paramedic and emergency medical dispatcher are challenging and rewarding careers for people of diverse identities, backgrounds, and experiences. Both men and women are employed in a range of settings, often enjoying job security at good rates of pay.