



# HOW TO BECOME A FIREFIGHTER



Are you looking to make a difference? If the answer is “yes”, your path to becoming a firefighter starts here! Make a positive impact by helping others and giving back to your community. A rewarding profession as a Firefighter / Paramedic is only a click away. Scan the QR code below for more information.



# How to start a career in the Fire Service

## High school:

If you are in high school, there is a program through the College of Lake County at the Tech campus. This program will prepare you for entry level firefighting. In the packet you will find information about this program.

*They also have just an EMT program if you don't want to pursue the firefighter side.*

## After high school:

You will need to obtain your EMT certificate, ***if you haven't already done so***. There are numerus ways to obtain that certification:

- Lake Forest Hospital offers the class. There are also other hospitals that offer the class in our area.
- You can obtain this certificate from the Tech campus program above and the College of Lake County.

There are several different ways to enroll in the class, above are just a few examples.

You will need to enroll in the basic operations firefighter academy to become certified as a firefighter. This requires a sponsorship by a fire department. Attached is information on one of the academies in our area with those requirements.

You will also need to obtain your paramedic license. In this packet you will find more information about this process.

To be a career firefighter (full time), applicants must have attained their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday by time of hire, and no older than 35. However, attached is some local volunteer fire departments you can join at the age of 18. These departments help you get all the certifications you need to prepare you to be a full time firefighter.

- Newport Fire Department (Wadsworth II)
- Lake Bluff Fire Department
- Winthrop Harbor Fire Department
- Beach Park Fire Department
- Antioch Fire Department

We wish you good luck in pursuing a career in the fire service. The Men and Women of the North Chicago Fire Department.





# NORTH CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

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## NORTH CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT APPLICANTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be a U.S. Citizen or legal resident of the U.S. who produces evidence of intention to become a U.S. Citizen.
- Must possess a valid Driver's License at the time of application with the ability to obtain an Illinois Driver's License upon time of hire.
- Applicants must have attained their 21st birthday by last date for filing applications. Applicants must be under the age of 35 at the day of testing unless exempt by State Statute 65 IL 5/10 – 2. 1-6 which provides, in part, that the age limitation does not apply to any person previously employed as a certified firefighter in a regularly constituted fire department or fire protection district located in the State of Illinois.
- Must have proof of High School Diploma, GED Certificate or High School Proficiency Statement.
- Eyesight must be corrected to at least 20/20, and free of color blindness.
- Employees must live within forty (40) air miles of the City and within the State of Illinois. Probationary employees will receive the full eighteen (18) months in which to comply with the residency requirements.
- **All applicants must acquire a CPAT Card (Candidate Physical Ability Card) with ladder climb exercise, obtained no more than one year prior to date of hire.**
- **Candidates must obtain, by time of appointment, an Illinois EMT-Paramedic license.**

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# High School Firefighting Tech Class At the College of Lake County

- **Program Description**

This program is designed to prepare you for entry-level firefighter positions. Topics covered include fire chemistry, personal protective clothing, identifying ropes, tying knots, using fire extinguishers, performing forcible entry, carrying and raising ladders, operating a self-contained breathing apparatus, employing search and rescue techniques, working with ventilation tools, and practicing hose evolutions on an operating fire engine.

- **What will my classes be like?**

As you train to become a firefighter, you'll learn about fire suppression, fire chemistry, forcible entry, and search and rescue techniques. Then practice what you've learned by performing drills with ropes, ladders, hoses, and a fire engine and ride along with local fire departments to see the skills you've learned in action.

- **Students in this class are eligible to receive 3 college credits from the College of Lake County.**

Year 1:

- FST 111 - Introduction to Fire Science, 3 credits

## Certifications

- AHA CPR Certification / First Aid
- FEMA ICS-100 Certification
- IEMA Hazmat Awareness Certification

## Job Opportunities

- Fire Chief
- Firefighter
- Fire Investigator
- Fire Prevention Officer
- Fire Service Officer
- Volunteer Firefighter



## Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy

### Course Syllabus

101

**Title:** Basic Operations Firefighter

**Program Duration:** 320 hours

**Type:** Campus Training Program (CTP)

**Coordinators:** Diaz, Swanson, Theobald

#### Course Description

NIPSTA's Basic Operations Firefighter program is designed to exceed the requirements outlined by the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal "OSFM", and provides students with the basic knowledge and skills needed to perform as an entry level, professional firefighter.

#### Prerequisites

The purpose of pre-requisite course work is to ensure students have sufficient backgrounds to understand the terminology, tactics and practical applications presented in NIPSTA programs. At a minimum, NIPSTA requires successful completion of the following:

- Member of a recognized fire department or fire brigade
- NIMS 100 & 700 certification
- Course Textbook (see below)
- Current SCBA mask fit-test
- Valid CPR card

#### Attendance

In order to receive a certificate of completion for courses, NIPSTA requires students to be present for all lectures, demonstrations and evolutions.

#### Safety

NIPSTA Instructors will ensure hazards have been identified and addressed prior to the start of each program. All course safety guidelines are discussed prior to operations and at a minimum, a one (1) to six (6) instructor to student ratio will be maintained at all times. Unsafe actions or behaviors will not be tolerated and will be grounds for dismissal.

#### Academic Integrity

NIPSTA aspires to the highest possible standards of academic honesty and integrity in all programs as key tenants of the NIPSTA experience. NIPSTA Instructors set forth clear ethical expectations, promote consistency of standards, and encourage reporting of dishonest and unsafe behaviors. While education through participation is the central goal for every NIPSTA program, it is only possible when honesty and integrity are part of the overall mission.

#### Performance Testing & Evaluation

NIPSTA employs multiple methods of measuring competency subject matter, including cognitive and performance skill testing. Cognitive skills will be measured by utilizing a comprehensive written exam at the conclusion of the course. Students must achieve a minimum 70% score to successfully pass the written exam. Performance skill tests measure an individual's ability to perform specific tasks or applications based on given or known JPRs. Unless otherwise specified, performance skill tests will be measured on a pass or fail basis.

## **ADA Compliance**

Students with a documented disabilities, as that term is used in the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), may qualify for reasonable accomidations as defined in section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For more information on NIPSTA's ADA accomidations please visit: <http://www.nipsta.org/468/ADA-Compliance>

## **Textbook**

The following textbook is required for NIPSTA's Basic Operations Firefighter course:

- "Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response": 4<sup>th</sup> Edition
  - ISBN: 9781284151336

## **Pre-course Assignments**

The purpose of pre-course assignments is to ensure candidates are prepared to succeed at the onset of the program. The pre-course assignments for NIPSTA's Basic Operations Firefighter course are as follows:

- Review:** Candidate Equipment and Apparel checklist, Physical Fitness Progam: Preparation and Expectations.
- Complete:** Candidate Information Form, Emergency Information Form, Texbook Requirement Form. Forms will be provided during the registration process.
- Read:** "Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response"
  - Chapters 1 – 3

## **320 Hour Basic Operations Firefighter Course Content**

Course content is broken into subject area modules or "Mods". NIPSTA's Basic Operations Firefighter program is comprised of the followng Mods:

**Mod:** Orientation & Course Information  
**Mod:** Attention to Detail  
**Mod:** Fire Department Organization  
**Mod:** Fire Service History  
**Mod:** Personal Protective Equipment  
**Mod:** Fire Fighter Safety  
**Mod:** Fire Fighter Rehabilitation  
**Mod:** Apparatus Safety & Response  
**Mod:** Self-Contained Breathing App.  
**Mod:** SCBA Donning/Doffing  
**Mod:** SCBA Maintenance  
**Mod:** SCBA Consumption Course  
**Mod:** SCBA Emergency Procedure  
**Mod:** SCBA Low Profile Skills  
**Mod:** Ground Ladders Skills  
**Mod:** Modern Fire Behavior  
**Mod:** Tools & Equipment  
**Mod:** Portable Fire Extinguishers  
**Mod:** Water Supply & Fire Hose  
**Mod:** Nozzles & Appliances

**Mod:** Hose Rolls, Loads & Maintenance  
**Mod:** Hydrants & Connections  
**Mod:** Hose Lead-outs - 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", 3"  
**Mod:** Charged Attack Lines - 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "  
**Mod:** Charged Attack Lines - 3" Leader  
**Mod:** SCBA Confidence Course  
**Mod:** Emergency Evacuations  
**Mod:** Fire Fighter MAYDAY  
**Mod:** Fire Fighter Entanglement  
**Mod:** Fire-ground Operations  
**Mod:** Extinguisher Use – Class A Fires  
**Mod:** Extinguisher Use – Class B Fires  
**Mod:** Building Construction  
**Mod:** Suppression Tactics & Strategy  
**Mod:** Search & Rescue  
**Mod:** Installed Systems  
**Mod:** Supply Lays - Forward & Reverse  
**Mod:** Supply Lays - Split  
**Mod:** Attack Line Skills – Ladders, Stairs  
**Mod:** Victim Carries & Drags

**Mod: Window & Ladder Rescue**  
**Mod: Search Operations**  
**Mod: Attack Line Skills - High Rises**  
**Mod: Attack Line Skills - Stand-pipes**  
**Mod: Master Stream Operations**  
**Mod: Forcible Entry Tactics**  
**Mod: Ventilation Tactics & Strategy**  
**Mod: Salvage & Overhaul**  
**Mod: Fire Cause & Origin**  
**Mod: Window & Door Ventilation**  
**Mod: Mechanical Ventilation (pos/neg)**  
**Mod: Pitched/Flat Roof Ops - hand tools**  
**Mod: Pitched/Flat Roof Ops - power tools**  
**Mod: Forcible Entry – chains & locks**  
**Mod: Forcible Entry – gates & bars**  
**Mod: Forcible Entry – in/out doors**  
**Mod: Truck Operations – Aerials/Towers**  
**Mod: Fire Department Communications**  
**Mod: Fire Service Ropes & Knots**  
**Mod: Rapid Intervention Tactics**  
**Mod: Rope Assisted Search Procedures**  
**Mod: Rescue Rope, Webbing, Hard.**  
**Mod: Rescue Knots, Hitches & Slings**  
**Mod: Rescue Rope Handling & Care**  
**Mod: Equipment Hoisting & Lowering**  
**Mod: Survival – Wall Breaching**  
**Mod: Survival – SCBA Confidence**  
**Mod: Survival – Ladder Escape**  
**Mod: Survival – Personal Escape**  
**Mod: Survival - Hose Slide Escape**  
**Mod: RIT – Basic Skills & Evolutions**  
**Mod: RIT – FF Rescue Evolutions**  
**Mod: RIT – FF Gear Removal & CPR**

**Mod: Incident Command System**  
**Mod: Incident Size-Up**  
**Mod: Pre-fire Planning**  
**Mod: Public Fire & Life Safety Education**  
**Mod: Salvage – Sprinkler Systems**  
**Mod: Salvage – Tarps & Covers**  
**Mod: Salvage – Water Control**  
**Mod: Overhaul – Opening Ceilings**  
**Mod: Utilities – Awareness and Control**  
**Mod: Scene Support – Power & Lights**  
**Mod: Vehicle Fires – Safety/Awareness**  
**Mod: Vehicle Fires – Attack & Control**  
**Mod: LP Gas Fires – Safety/Awareness**  
**Mod: LP Gas Fires – Attack & Control**  
**Mod: Foam – Concept & Application**  
**Mod: Vehicle Extrication – Safety/Awareness**  
**Mod: Vehicle Extrication – Technology**  
**Mod: Vehicle Extrication – Techniques**  
**Mod: Fire Service Vehicle Operator**  
**Mod: Hazardous Material Awareness**  
**Mod: Technical Rescue Awareness**  
**Mod: Special Rescue Tools & Equip**  
**Mod: Special Rescue Support**  
**Mod: Terrorism Awareness**  
**Mod: Wildland & Ground Cover Fires**  
**Mod: Courage to Be Safe Program**  
**Mod: Firefighter Health & Wellness**  
**Mod: Behavioral/Stress Management**  
**Mod: Substance Use Disorder (SUD)**  
**Mod: Equipment Maintenance**  
**Mod: Firefighter Decontamination**  
**Mod: Requisite Skills Assessment**  
**Mod: Requisite Knowledge Assessment**

### **Learning Outcomes & Evaluation**

Following the conclusion of these modules, students will be familiar with the requisite knowledge and skills needed to perform as an entry level professional firefighter. Written and practical evaluations will be conducted at the completion of this course.

## 320 Hour Basic Operations Firefighter Course Schedule

### Week 1

#### Day 1 – Lecture

**Mod:** Orientation & Course Information  
**Mod:** Attention to Detail  
 - Presentation of Colors  
 - Intro to Physical Fitness Program  
 - Company Tools & Equipment

#### Day 2

**Mod:** Fire Department Organization  
**Mod:** Fire Service History  
**Mod:** Personal Protective Equipment  
**Mod:** Fire Fighter Safety  
**Mod:** Fire Fighter Rehabilitation  
**Mod:** Apparatus Safety & Response

#### Day 3

**Mod:** Self-Cont. Breathing Apparatus  
**Mod:** SCBA Donning/Doffing  
**Mod:** SCBA Maintenance

#### Day 4

**Mod:** SCBA Consumption Course  
**Mod:** SCBA Emergency Procedure  
**Mod:** SCBA Low Profile Skills

#### Day 5

**Mod:** Ground Ladders Skills  
 3 Firefighter Caries, Raises & Extensions  
 2 Firefighter Caries, Raises & Extensions  
 1 Firefighter Caries, Raises & Extensions  
 Rolling, Pivoting & Tying Off

### Week 2

#### Day 6 – Lecture

**Mod:** Modern Fire Behavior  
**Mod:** Tools & Equipment  
**Mod:** Portable Fire Extinguishers  
**Mod:** Water Supply & Fire Hose  
**Mod:** Nozzles & Appliances

#### Day 7

**Mod:** Hose Rolls, Loads & Maintenance  
**Mod:** Hydrants & Connections  
**Mod:** Hose Lead-outs - 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", 3"

#### Day 8

**Mod:** Charged Attack Lines - 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "  
**Mod:** Charged Attack Lines - 3" Id line

#### Day 9

**Mod:** SCBA Confidence Course  
**Mod:** Emergency Evacuations  
**Mod:** Fire Fighter MAYDAY  
**Mod:** Fire Fighter Entanglement

#### Day 10 – Live Fire 1

**Mod:** Fire-ground Operations  
**Mod:** Extinguisher Use, Class A Fires  
**Mod:** Extinguisher Use, Class B Fires  
**Mod:** Firefighter DECON

**Week 3****Week 4****Day 11 – Lecture**

- Mod:** Building Construction
- Mod:** Suppression Tactics & Strategy
- Mod:** Search & Rescue
- Mod:** Installed Systems

**Day 16 – Lecture**

- Mod:** Forcible Entry Tactics
- Mod:** Ventilation Tactics
- Mod:** Salvage & Overhaul
- Mod:** Fire Cause & Origin

**Day 12**

- Mod:** Supply Lays – Forward, Reverse
- Mod:** Supply Lays - Split
- Mod:** Attack Skills - Ladders & Stairs

**Day 17**

- Mod:** Window & Door Ventilation
- Mod:** Mechanical Ventilation (pos/neg)
- Mod:** Pitched/Flat Roofs - hand tools
- Mod:** Pitched/Flat Roofs - power tools

**Day 13**

- Mod:** Victim Carries & Drags
- Mod:** Window & Ladder Rescue
- Mod:** Search Operations

**Day 18**

- Mod:** Forcible Entry – chains & locks
- Mod:** Forcible Entry – gates & bars
- Mod:** Forcible Entry – in/out doors

**Day 14**

- Mod:** Attack Line Skills - High Rises
- Mod:** Attack Line Skills - Stand-pipes
- Mod:** Master Stream Operations

**Day 19**

- Mod:** Truck Ops - Aerials & Towers
- Ventilation Skills Review
- Forcible Entry Skills Review

**Day 15 – Live Fire 2**

- Mod:** Fire-ground Operations
- Attack & Back-up Lines
- Ground Ladders
- Primary/Secondary Search

**Day 20 – Live Fire 3**

- Mod:** Fire-ground Operations
- Ventilation Operations
- Forcible Entry Operations
- Attack/Back-up lines
- Primary/Secondary Search

**Week 5****Week 6****Day 21 – Lecture**

**Mod:** Fire Dept. Communications  
**Mod:** Fire Service Ropes & Knots  
**Mod:** Rapid Intervention Tactics  
**Mod:** Rope Assisted Search

**Day 26 – Lecture**

**Mod:** Incident Command System  
**Mod:** Incident Size-Up  
**Mod:** Pre-Fire Planning  
**Mod:** Public Fire & Safety Education

**Day 22**

**Mod:** Rescue Rope, Webbing & Hard.  
**Mod:** Rescue Knots, Hitches & Slings  
**Mod:** Rescue Rope Handling & Care  
**Mod:** Equipment Hoisting & Lowering

**Day 27**

**Mod:** Salvage – Sprinkler Systems  
**Mod:** Salvage – Tarps & Covers  
**Mod:** Salvage – Water Control  
**Mod:** Overhaul – Opening Ceilings  
**Mod:** Utilities, Awareness and Control  
**Mod:** Scene Support – Power & Lights

**Day 23**

**Mod:** Survival – Wall Breaching  
**Mod:** Survival – SCBA Confidence  
**Mod:** Survival – Ladder Escape  
**Mod:** Survival – Personal Escape  
**Mod:** Survival - Hose Slide Escape

**Day 28**

**Mod:** Vehicle Fires - Safety & Aware.  
**Mod:** Vehicle Fires – Attack & Control  
**Mod:** LP Gas Fires – Safety & Aware.  
**Mod:** LP Gas Fires – Attack & Control  
**Mod:** Foam – Concept & Application

**Day 24**

**Mod:** RIT – Basic Skills & Evolutions  
**Mod:** RIT – FF Rescue Evolutions  
- Below Grade Rescue/Removal  
- Restricted Space Rescue/Removal  
- Difficult Access Rescue/Removal

**Day 29**

**Mod:** Vehicle Ext – Safety & Aware.  
**Mod:** Vehicle Extrication – Technology  
**Mod:** Vehicle Extrication – Techniques  
**Mod:** Special Rescue Support Demo

**Day 25 – Live Fire 4**

**Mod:** Fire-ground Operations  
- Fire Attack & Ventilation  
- Forcible Entry & Search  
- Rapid Intervention Operations

**Day 30 – Live Fire 5**

**Mod:** Fire-ground Operations  
- Fire Attack & Ventilation  
- Forcible Entry & Search  
- Fire Scene Support  
**Mod:** Cause & Origin Demo

**Week 7****Week 8**

<b>Day 31 – Lecture</b> <b>Mod:</b> Fire Service Vehicle Operator	<b>Day 36 – Lecture</b> Hazardous Materials Operations See SOG 302
<b>Day 32</b> <b>Mod:</b> Hazardous Material Awareness <b>Mod:</b> Technical Rescue Awareness <b>Mod:</b> Special Rescue Tools & Equip <b>Mod:</b> Terrorism Awareness <b>Mod:</b> Wildland & Ground Cover Fires	<b>Day 37</b> Hazardous Materials Operations See SOG 302
<b>Day 33</b> <b>Mod:</b> RIT – Gear Removal & FF CPR Basic Skills Review	<b>Day 38</b> Hazardous Materials Operations See SOG 302
<b>Day 34</b> <b>Mod:</b> Courage to Be Safe program - <i>Chiefs Day Luncheon</i> - <b>Mod:</b> Firefighter Health & Wellness <b>Mod:</b> Behavioral/Stress Management <b>Mod:</b> Substance Use Disorder (SUD)	<b>Day 39</b> Hazardous Materials Operations See SOG 302
<b>Day 35 – Live Fire 6</b> <b>Mod:</b> Fire-ground Operations - Fire Attack & Ventilation - Forcible Entry & Search - Ground Ladders & Support	<b>Day 40</b> Hazardous Materials Operations See SOG 302

## Week 9

### Day 41

**Mod:** Requisite Skills Assessment

### Day 42

**Mod:** Requisite Skills Assessment

### Day 43 – Live Fire 7

**Mod:** Fire-ground Operations

- Fire Attack & Ventilation
- Forcible Entry & Search
- Ground Ladders & Support

### Day 44

**Mod:** Equipment Maintenance

- Equipment & Facility Inspection

### Day 45 – Graduation

**Mod:** Requisite Knowledge Asses.

OSFM Basic Exam

Open House & Graduation

## Reference List

*Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response* (2019). Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning.

Corbett, G. P. (2016). *Brannigans Building Construction for the Fire Service*. S.L.: Jones & Bartlett Learning.

*NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*. (2013). Quincy, MA: National Fire Protection Association.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). (2018, February 22). Retrieved March 03, 2018, from <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/default.html>

Courage to Be Safe®. (n.d.). Retrieved March 03, 2018, from <https://www.everyonegoeshome.com/training/courage-safe-training/>

American Heart Association. (2020). *Basic life support: Provider manual*.



## APPLICATION PACKET FOR THE 2024-2025 PARAMEDIC TRAINING PROGRAM

### DEAR PARAMEDIC APPLICANT:

Thank you for your interest in the North Lake County EMS Paramedic Training Courses. Interest in our program is high and we expect a large and enthusiastic class for the coming year. Our 1000-hours-plus course includes training in the didactic, clinical, and field environments and meets or exceeds the educational and competency standards of the current USDOT/NHTSA National Paramedic Educational Guidelines.

***Additionally, Vista Health Paramedic Education programs are accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs ([www.caahp.org](http://www.caahp.org)) upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP). We are the longest-tenured accredited program in Lake County.***

### **Application Process for 2024-2025 Paramedic Training Program**

Completed applications must be submitted via mail or in person to Vista Medical Center East at 1324 North Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL 60085, by 3 PM on May 24, 2024, for the 2024-2025 year-long course (projected start on August 19, 2024). Applications are currently being accepted and early course registration is encouraged. However, acceptance of your application by the North Lake Co. EMS/Vista Health Paramedic Training Program does not guarantee placement in a class; nor does acceptance into the program guarantee graduation.

Should it be necessary, applicants may be ranked on a point system, as follows:

- **25 points** for belonging to a North Lake County EMS System provider (must have a letter from that agency or department on business letterhead to prove affiliation).
- **15 points** for being affiliated with an IDPH EMS Region X provider outside the North Lake County EMS System (must have a letter from that agency or department on business letterhead to prove affiliation).
- **15 points** for at least two (2) years experience in health care, preferably EMS (must have a letter of proof on business letterhead).
- **10 points** for at least one (1) year experience in health care, preferably EMS (must have a letter of proof on business letterhead).
- **5 points** for at least six (6) months of healthcare experience, preferably in EMS (must have a letter of proof on business letterhead).
- **10 points** for graduating from Vista Health EMT Training Program or the Tech Campus EMT Program (with instructor recommendation)
- **5 points** for submitting a ***complete application*** by the appropriate deadline.
- **15 points** accrued during the pre-course interview process and pre-course testing process.

***Pre-course interviews will be scheduled individually.***

**NOTE:** As part of our affiliation with the College of Lake County and as a nationally-accredited paramedic training program, a ***college-level Anatomy & Physiology*** course is a ***pre-requisite*** for admittance to all paramedic programs. The required A&P course must be at least the equivalent of BIO 111, "Human Form and Function." offered at the College of Lake County and candidates must obtain a minimum grade of "C.". For course equivalency information, contact Carol Wismer at the College of Lake County ([cwismer@clcillinois.edu](mailto:cwismer@clcillinois.edu)).

Please include the following completed forms, or information with your application:

- Paramedic Training Program Application with a cover letter from you (1-2 pages maximum) explaining why you should be considered for paramedic training.
- \$50 **non-refundable** application fee. ***If you turn an application in after the due date, the application fee is \$100 and there is no guarantee your late application will be considered.*** The fee may be made via credit card, or a check made payable to **Vista Health System**. The application fee ***will not*** be credited towards any course fees upon acceptance into the class. Cash will not be accepted.

Name on card:	Amount:
Card Type:	Card #'s:
Exp date:	Code on back:

- Copy of high school diploma or equivalency.
- Copy of current driver's license.
- Copy of current Illinois EMT-B or EMT-I license (or equivalent) – must obtain Illinois EMS provider license prior to the start of class.
- Copy of current Healthcare Provider CPR card.
- Two letters of reference from non-relatives indicating the qualities you possess that make you a good candidate for paramedic school. If you need to prove affiliation or healthcare experience, those letters will be considered letters of reference provided the author is willing to recommend you for the paramedic program.
- A "Letter of Good Standing" from your current EMS system, if you do not belong to the North Lake County EMS System. If you do not work for an EMS provider currently, this requirement is waived.
- ***An unofficial transcript proving the completion of the A&P pre-requisite with a minimum letter grade of "C."***
- Enrollment as a student at the College of Lake County required.
- Copy of required up-to-date immunizations.
  - Each student is expected to have received or will receive the entire series of three (3) Heptavax vaccinations. The student must have had the first vaccination prior to the start of class. In addition, students need to provide proof of Rubella, Rubeola, and Varicella vaccinations (diphtheria & polio, if appropriate), and current tetanus vaccination/booster. Documentation of each vaccination must be on file with the paramedic training program office prior to the student participating in hospital clinical or supervised field experience time.
  - TB Screening Test. Students entering the program must have had a TB (tuberculosis) screening test(s). A negative screening test must be documented by a physician's office. The screening test must be renewed on an annual basis. Documentation of preliminary and subsequent TB screening tests must be on file with the paramedic training program office prior to the student participating in hospital clinical or supervised field experience time.
  - Proof of COVID-19 vaccination(s). It is highly recommended that prospective paramedic students be vaccinated against the corona virus. There is a waiver process, but waivers can be difficult to get approved. In order to participate in our program, you must follow and meet the COVID requirements for both the College of Lake County and Vista Health.
  - Proof of flu vaccine by November 1, 2024, or submission of waiver form.
- Proof of personal health insurance coverage.

A candidate's application will not be considered complete until **all** of the above items are turned in.

Once your completed application is received, you will be notified in June or July 2024 regarding a pre-course interview appointment with a committee of EMS staff and the EMS Educator in charge of the paramedic training program. If you do not receive any information in the time frame indicated above, please contact us by phone to confirm your email address and application status.

### **Course Information**

#### **2024-2025 Traditional Evening Program:**

The course is scheduled to begin on Monday, August 19, 2024, at 1800 hours and is projected to conclude on June 30, 2025. Classes run on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1800-2200, with at least one Saturday commitment each month and occasionally an entire weekend each month to complete specialty courses included in the curriculum (e.g., ACLS, PALS, ITLS, etc.). Candidates generally need to complete 8-12 hours/week each of clinical and field time to finish the course on time.

#### **Course Fees**

Tuition: \$4,000 (does not include application fees, books, testing fees, etc.)

The purchase of textbooks will be the responsibility of each student. Students can purchase their books directly from the publisher, through a bookstore, from a previous student, or on-line. A list of required textbooks is available. Testing fees, software fees, etc. are also not included and are the student's responsibility.

***(Note: All fees and costs are subject to change, without notice, prior to the start of the course.)***

Again, thank you for your interest in our program! Your success is our top priority. We look forward to helping you meet your educational and professional goals! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [David.Chase@amhealthsystems.com](mailto:David.Chase@amhealthsystems.com).

Sincerely,



Dave Chase, EMS Educator/EMS System Coord.  
Paramedic Training Programs  
North Lake Co. EMS System/Vista Health  
1324 North Sheridan Road  
Waukegan, Illinois 60085  
Office: 847-360-2205  
Fax: 847-625-6216  
[David.Chase@amhealthsystems.com](mailto:David.Chase@amhealthsystems.com)

**The Vista Health/North Lake  
County EMS System offices are  
located at:**

**Vista East Hospital  
1324 N. Sheridan Road  
Waukegan, IL 60085**



***The goal is to prepare Paramedics who are competent in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains to enter the profession.***



**Vista Health System Paramedic Program**  
**2024-2025 Programs Application Form**  
**(Starts August 19, 2024)**



**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Extra #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's License # \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Make/Model/Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Plate No. \_\_\_\_\_

Fire/Rescue Department/Ambulance Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ How long? \_\_\_\_\_

Is North Lake County your primary EMS system? (Circle one) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If not, primary EMS System (attach letter of good standing): \_\_\_\_\_

Healthcare Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Immediate Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor's email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Current license information:**

Circle one: EMT/AEMT Illinois License #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Notification:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Required attachments:**

- Copy of Illinois EMT license.
- Copy of CPR card (front and back).
- Copy of Drivers License.
- Copy of High School diploma or equivalent.
- Proof of up-to-date immunizations (including COVID-19)
- Non-refundable \$50.00 application fee (payable to Vista Health System); \$100 if past due date.
- Personal cover letter and two letters of reference.
- Completion of math and English proficiency testing (or equivalent) through the College of Lake County prior to pre-course interview.
- Proof of personal health care insurance coverage.
- Letter of Good Standing (if applicable).
- Proof of A&P pre-requisite.

***Vista Health Paramedic Education programs are accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahp.org) upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP).***

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ or No \_\_\_\_\_**  
**(If "Yes," attach explanation.)**

#### **Standard of Care**

I understand that I must comply with all policies, procedures and protocols of the North Lake County EMS System and Vista Health. I understand that any violation of the policies, procedures and/or protocols may result in corrective action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion from the training course and from the EMS System.

I understand that falsification of this or any other document will result in suspension and/or dismissal from the training course and from the EMS system.

I understand that acceptance of this application by the North Lake County EMS System does not guarantee acceptance into the EMT-Paramedic program.

I certify that all statements above are complete and true. I understand that if I am not accepted for the term indicated, I will need to re-apply.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Office Use:**

Date Received Stamp:

- Illinois EMT license
- CPR card
- Drivers License
- Cover letter/reference letters
- High School diploma or equivalent
- Letter of Good Standing (if applicable).
- Immunizations
- Anatomy and Physiology course.
- Application fee/voucher
- Completion of math and English proficiency testing (or equivalent) through the College of Lake County prior to pre-course interview.
- Proof of personal health care insurance coverage prior to the start of clinical and ride time.

Years Exp. in Healthcare? \_\_\_\_\_

Accept       Reject

Pre-Test Date: \_\_\_\_\_

EMS Department Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# What EMTs and Paramedics Do

EMTs and paramedics assess a patient's condition and administer emergency medical care. Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics care for the sick or injured in emergency medical settings. People's lives often depend on the quick reaction and competent care provided by these workers. EMTs and paramedics respond to emergency calls, performing medical services and transporting patients to medical facilities.

A [911 operator](#) sends EMTs and paramedics to the scene of an emergency, where they often work with [police](#) and [firefighters](#).

## Duties

EMTs and paramedics typically do the following:

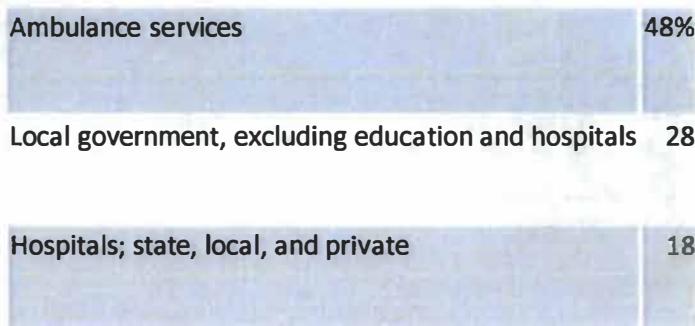
- Respond to 911 calls for emergency medical assistance, such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or bandaging a wound
- Assess a patient's condition and determine a course of treatment
- Provide first-aid treatment or life support care to sick or injured patients
- Transport patients safely in an ambulance
- Transfer patients to the emergency department of a hospital or other healthcare facility
- Report their observations and treatment to physicians, nurses, or other healthcare facility staff
- Document medical care given to patients
- Inventory, replace, and clean supplies and equipment after use



# Work Environment

## About this section

EMTs and paramedics care for sick or injured patients in a prehospital setting. EMTs and paramedics held about 248,000 jobs in 2016. The largest employers of EMTs and paramedics were as follows:



The above percentages exclude volunteer EMTs and paramedics who do not receive pay.

EMTs and paramedics work both indoors and outdoors, in all types of weather. Their work is physically strenuous and can be stressful, sometimes involving life-or-death situations.

Volunteer EMTs and paramedics share many of the same duties as paid EMTs and paramedics. They volunteer for fire departments, providers of emergency medical services, or hospitals. They may respond to only a few calls per month.

specialize in emergency care training. Some states have EMT positions that do not require national certification. These positions typically require state certification.

The [Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs](#) offers a list of accredited programs for EMTs and paramedics, by state.

Programs at the EMT level include instruction in assessing patients' conditions, dealing with trauma and cardiac emergencies, clearing obstructed airways, using field equipment, and handling emergencies.

Formal courses include about 150 hours of specialized instruction, and some instruction may take place in a hospital or ambulance setting.

Programs at the Advanced EMT level typically require about 400 hours of instruction. At this level, candidates learn EMT-level skills as well as more advanced ones, such as using complex airway devices, intravenous fluids, and some medications.

Paramedics have the most advanced level of education. To enter specific paramedical training programs, they must already be EMT certified. Community colleges and universities may offer these programs, which require about 1,200 hours of instruction and may lead to an associate's or bachelor's degree. Paramedics' broader scope of practice may include stitching wounds or administering intravenous medications.

High school students interested in becoming EMTs or paramedics should take courses in anatomy and physiology and consider becoming certified in CPR.

### **Licenses, Certifications, and Registrations**

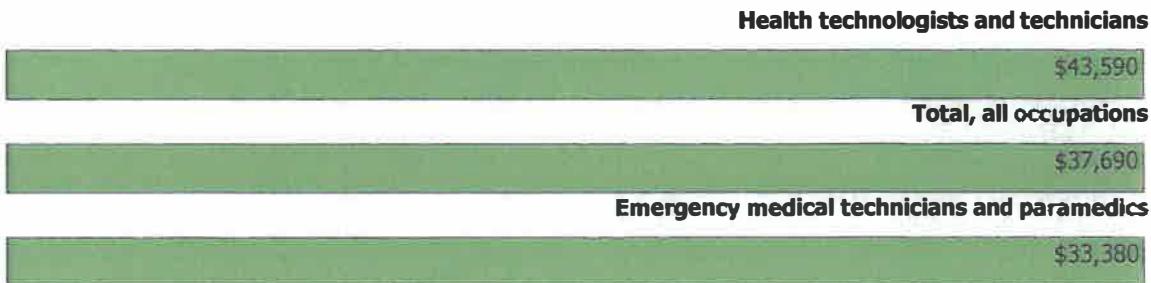
The [National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians](#) (NREMT) certifies EMTs and paramedics at the national level. All levels of NREMT certification require completing a certified education program and passing the national exam. The national exam has both written and practical parts. Some states have first-level state certifications that do not require national certification.

All states require EMTs and paramedics to be licensed; requirements vary by state. In most states, an individual who has NREMT certification qualifies for licensure; in others, passing an equivalent state exam is required. Usually, an applicant must be over the age of 18. Many states require background checks and may not give a license to an applicant who has a criminal history.

# Pay

## EMTs and Paramedics

Median annual wages, May 2017



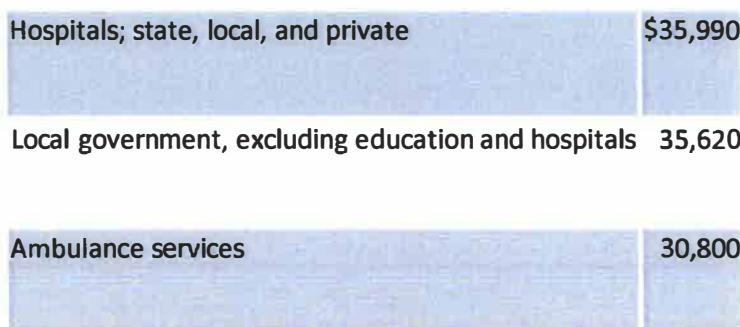
Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics

The median annual wage for EMTs and paramedics was \$33,380 in May 2017. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$21,880, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$56,990.

In May 2017, the median annual wages for EMTs and paramedics in the top industries in which they worked were as follows:



Most paid EMTs and paramedics work full time. About 1 in 3 worked more than 40 hours per week in 2016. Because EMTs and paramedics must be available to work in emergencies, they may work overnight and on weekends. Some EMTs and paramedics work shifts in 12- or 24-hour increments. Volunteer EMTs and paramedics have variable work schedules. For example, they may work only a few days per week.