



# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NATIONAL EMS CERTIFICATION

*The Nation's EMS Certification™ - It's Important to the Public*



**National Registry of  
Emergency Medical Technicians®**  
THE NATION'S EMS CERTIFICATION™



National EMS Certification  
is important to the public.

## Welcome to the National EMS Certification Process

National EMS Certification is important to the public. It assures them that the EMS professionals providing care are competent. The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians® (NREMT) provides National EMS Certification. When you obtain National EMS Certification, you are telling the public and your employer that you have demonstrated a national level of competency. This is a standard that every American citizen deserves—at their moment of greatest need.

National EMS Certification is part of the national *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach*. It is also part of the EMS licensure process in many states. This brochure explains how National EMS Certification relates to the licensure process. It also explains the NREMT's role, policies, and procedures for all levels of National EMS Certification.

The levels of NREMT Certification are:

- Emergency Medical Responder (NREMR)
- Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT)
- Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (NRAEMT)
- Paramedic (NRP)

All current NREMT policies are located on the NREMT website ([www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)). These policies affect your certification. You will need to understand these policies when you:

- Prepare to enter the *Registry* of Nationally Certified EMS providers
- Apply to take a National EMS Certification examination
- Recertify your National EMS Certification

This brochure gives a summary of NREMT policies. It also contains information about:

- The Role of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians
- NREMT Board of Directors
- Entry requirements
- National EMS Certification Examinations (cognitive and psychomotor)
- Applying for National EMS Certification
- ADA Accommodations
- Eligibility, Disciplinary and Rights of Appeals Policy
- The Importance of Maintaining your NREMT Account
- Recertification Information
- Communicating with the NREMT
- NREMT Corporate Information

National EMS Certification is an **individual responsibility**. This means that you are held personally responsible if you allow someone else to fulfill your responsibility and errors occur.

This brochure only provides the main points of these policies and procedures. Complete details and current policies are on the NREMT website ([www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)).

National EMS Certification  
is an individual responsibility.

# The Role of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT)

***As a non-profit, non-governmental, independent certification agency, the NREMT provides many areas of service including:***

- Entry level competency assessment
- A *Registry* of Nationally Certified EMS providers
- A Recertification process
- Research that benefits the EMS Community

The NREMT is not a membership association. Only those who successfully complete the National EMS Certification process are entered into the *Registry* of Nationally Certified EMS providers.

## ***How the NREMT is Governed***

The NREMT is governed by a Board of Directors representing all areas of the EMS community. There are twenty-one members. They include physicians, state EMS office officials, EMS professionals, EMS educators, and a public representative. Non-voting organizations also participate through liaison members. They hold many accomplishments and are highly regarded in their areas of practice. Their biographies are on the NREMT website ([www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)).

Members of the Board are elected in November of each year. They begin their four-year terms on January 1. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Past Chairman and Immediate Past Chairman serve as the Executive Committee.

## ***Organizations that nominate members to the Board of Directors***

American Ambulance Association  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
International Association of Fire Chiefs  
National Association of EMS Physicians  
National Association of EMTs  
National Association of State EMS Officials

## ***Liaison Organizations***

American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians  
American Heart Association  
American Red Cross  
Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for  
the Emergency Medical Services Professions  
Continuing Education Coordinating Board for  
Emergency Medical Services  
Emergency Nurses Association  
National Association of EMS Educators  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
National Volunteer Fire Council  
U.S. Air Force Medical Service  
U.S. Army Medical Corps  
U.S. Navy

## ***Why the NREMT Holds Accreditation***

The NREMT is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). This is the highest assurance that the health, welfare and safety of the public is being protected through a credible examination and certification process. NCCA accreditation also means that the NREMT complies with the standards found in the “Standards for Education and Psychological Testing.” This document was developed by the American Psychological Association (APA), American Educational Research Association (AERA) and the National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME).

## ***What NREMT Certification Means to You***

National EMS Certification means you have met the standards of the certifying body in credentialing. Certification is recognized by employers, state licensing agencies, and the public. It means you possess entry level competency.

## ***The Difference Between Certification and State Licensure***

While certification shows that you have met an entry level competency standard, state licensure is what gives you *the right to work* in a particular capacity. Nationally Certified EMS providers who are not state licensed cannot practice. After you obtain National EMS Certification, you must obtain a license to work.

## ***NREMT Entry Requirements***

In order to obtain National EMS Certification, you must meet the current entry requirements. The NREMT Board developed these requirements to seek uniformity across the nation. Generally these requirements regard your age, education, certificate(s) which demonstrate competency (i.e. CPR), review of any felony or disciplinary action, and examination requirements. The specific requirements currently in effect are on the NREMT website ([www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)).





Upon successful completion of the National EMS Certification process, you will receive the appropriate credential:

**NREMR** Emergency Medical Responder

**NREMT** Emergency Medical Technician

**NRAEMT** Advanced Emergency  
Medical Technician

**NRP** Paramedic

## The NREMT Offers National EMS Certification at Four Provider Levels

*(Descriptions courtesy of [www.ems.gov](http://www.ems.gov))*

### ***Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)***

The primary focus of the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) is to initiate immediate lifesaving care to critical patients who access the emergency medical system. This individual possesses the basic knowledge and skills necessary to provide lifesaving interventions while awaiting additional EMS response and to assist higher level personnel at the scene and during transport. EMRs function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, under medical oversight. EMRs perform basic interventions with minimal equipment.

Educational requirements: Successful completion of a state approved Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course.

### ***Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)***

The primary focus of the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) is to provide basic emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical system. This individual possesses the basic knowledge and skills necessary to provide patient care and transportation. EMTs function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, under medical oversight. EMTs perform interventions with the basic equipment typically found on an ambulance. The EMT is a link from the scene to the emergency health care system.

Educational requirements: Successful completion of a state approved Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course.

### ***Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)***

The primary focus of the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) is to provide basic and limited advanced emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical system. This individual possesses the

basic knowledge and skills necessary to provide patient care and transportation. AEMTs function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, under medical oversight. AEMTs perform interventions with the basic and advanced equipment typically found on an ambulance. The AEMT is a link from the scene to the emergency health care system.

Educational Requirements: Current certification or licensure as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and successful completion of a state approved Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) course.

### ***Paramedic (P)***

The Paramedic is an allied health professional whose primary focus is to provide advanced emergency medical care for critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical system. This individual possesses the complex knowledge and skills necessary to provide patient care and transportation. Paramedics function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, under medical oversight. Paramedics perform interventions with the basic and advanced equipment typically found on an ambulance. The Paramedic is a link from the scene into the health care system.

Educational Requirements: Current certification or licensure as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and successful completion of a state approved Paramedic education program.\*

*\*Beginning January 1, 2013 new enrollees in Paramedic programs who will be seeking NREMT's National EMS Certification at the Paramedic level must have successfully completed education from an accredited program or one that is seeking accreditation sponsored by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).*

# NREMT National EMS Certification Examinations

All NREMT National EMS Certification examinations require successful completion of both cognitive (knowledge) and psychomotor (skills) examinations. When you pass a portion of the exam, both cognitive and psychomotor, it remains valid for up to twelve (12) months from the date of the examination, provided you meet all other current requirements for National EMS Certification.

## *Cognitive Examination (Knowledge)*

The NREMT is committed to determining competency in the most fair, accurate and precise method possible. That is why the NREMT uses computer based testing (CBT), including computer adaptive tests (CAT) for National EMS Certification.

All NREMT National EMS Certification examinations reflect the important functions of the job and are based on a National EMS Practice Analysis. For specific information regarding the cognitive examination, please refer to the NREMT website ([www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)).

*From the left menu on the NREMT home page select:*

- ▀ *National EMS Certification Exams*
  - ▀ *Practice Analysis*



## ***Applying for National EMS Certification***

You apply for National EMS Certification on the NREMT website ([www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)). All candidates are required to complete an individual account on the NREMT website, providing their personal information and acknowledgement of NREMT policies. When your application has been approved, you will receive authorization (through your personal account) to schedule your National EMS Certification examination at an approved testing center.

*From the left menu on the NREMT home page select:*

- *National EMS Certification Exams*
  - *Apply for National Certification*
    - *Certification Level*

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## ***Scheduling Your Cognitive (Knowledge) Examination***

After your application is accepted, you will receive an Authorization to Test (ATT) letter by logging into your NREMT account. The letter will contain the final details needed to schedule your cognitive examination at an approved test center. The examination process is very secure. Important instructions are included in the ATT; please read this letter carefully to make sure you are not turned away at the time of your examination, possibly forfeiting your examination fee.



## ***Psychomotor (Skills) Examination***

You must also successfully complete a psychomotor examination as part of the National EMS Certification process. Psychomotor examinations are different, depending on the level of National EMS Certification you want to obtain. The skills, policies, places of administration, and rules vary by level. The NREMT website ([www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)) contains the specifics regarding each level.

*From the left menu on the NREMT home page select:*

- ▀ *National EMS Certification Exams*
    - ▀ *Psychomotor Examinations*
      - ▀ *Certification Level*
- 

For general information on how to prepare for the examination you should refer to the NREMT website ([www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)).

*From the left menu on the NREMT home page select:*

- ▀ *National EMS Certification Exams*
    - ▀ *Preparing for Success*
- 

For general information on how NREMT cognitive examinations are developed you should refer to the NREMT website ([www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)).

*From the left menu on the NREMT home page select:*

- ▀ *National EMS Certification Exams*
    - ▀ *Examination Development*
- 

For general information regarding computer based testing (CBT) you should refer to the NREMT website ([www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)).

*From the left menu on the NREMT home page select:*

- ▀ *National EMS Certification Exams*
  - ▀ *Computer Based Testing*

## ***Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations***

The NREMT complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and offers reasonable and appropriate accommodations for individuals with documented disabilities. For more information on how to apply for ADA accommodations you should refer to the NREMT website ([www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)).

*From the left menu on the NREMT home page select:*

- *General Policies*
    - *Accommodations Disability Policy*
- 

## ***Eligibility, Disciplinary and Rights of Appeal Policies***

Any unscrupulous activity including but not limited to submission of fraudulent or misleading information, cheating of any kind, misrepresentation, or attempts to recreate portions of the exam are subject to investigation and disciplinary actions. The NREMT reserves the right to inform state EMS officials of the outcomes of any investigations. The NREMT has disciplinary procedures, rights of appeals and due process within its policies. Requests to appeal must be signed and submitted in writing within 45 days of the date of the notice of determination.

For more information about eligibility, disciplinary and rights of appeal policies you should refer to the NREMT website ([www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)).

*From the left menu on the NREMT home page select:*

- *General Policies*
  - *Eligibility, Disciplinary and Appeal Policies*

## **Maintaining Your NREMT Account is Critical**

It is very important to update your NREMT account whenever your contact information changes. This information must be updated during the certification process *and* when you become Nationally Certified. **This is your responsibility!** The NREMT needs to be able

to contact you with important information. This can include policy changes, educational opportunities, and recertification information. Be sure to update your account within **30 days** of any change, including address, phone or email changes.

Candidates and Nationally Certified EMS providers manage their contact information using the NREMT website ([www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)).

*Log in to your account:*

► [Edit](#)

► [Manage NREMT Profile Information](#)

## ***Recertification Information***

National EMS Certification is a uniform process designed to assure competency throughout your EMS career. Nationally Certified providers must meet or exceed all NREMT recertification requirements throughout their careers in order to maintain National EMS Certification. When you maintain National EMS Certification the NREMT will attest to you, your employer and state that you have met the NREMT requirements. When you enter the NREMT you will receive an expiration date for your initial certification. You will also receive a brochure that explains the specific requirements for recertification for your level of National EMS Certification. Recertification is required every two years. Recertification is obtained by completing continuing education, or by taking the current National EMS Certification exam and documenting skills competency for your provider level.

## ***Communicating with the NREMT***

After checking our website for information, if you still need to contact the NREMT for additional information, please call us at (614) 888-4484. We have found speaking with you by phone is the most effective means of communication. An automatic answering system will direct your call to trained representatives who can help you.

The NREMT communicates with applicants, Nationally Certified EMS providers, State EMS Officials, EMS educators and other EMS stakeholders by telephone, facsimile, email, communiqués and U.S. Mail. Communications regarding denial of eligibility, disciplinary actions or appeals must be submitted in writing (including signature) to the Executive Director of the NREMT.

## NREMT Corporate Information

The NREMT website serves as the NREMT policy manual and will reflect the current policies. Please refer to [www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org) for current policy information.

The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians is a non-governmental, non-profit, 501(c)(3) certification agency. Payments or contributions to the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, Inc., are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes. Payments may be deducted as a business expense. If in doubt, please contact your tax advisor.

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians  
P.O. Box 29233, Columbus, OH 43229  
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Hours of operation: 8:30am - 5:00pm ET

*A PDF of this brochure is available at [www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org).*

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