

# Emergency Medical Technician

Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) are real life superheroes. Like other first responders, they rush to the scene of all kinds of accidents, disasters, and emergencies. Whether it's a heart attack, a car crash, a dog bite, or an emergency childbirth--these medical professionals handle all kinds of life or death situations with skill and compassion.

*(Feel free to use the back of this sheet for longer answers)*

## What Do EMTs Do?

When bad things happen, EMTs are on the job. They provide quick and competent care in two types of situations. Medical calls involve things like heart attacks, strokes, or severe allergic reactions. Trauma calls involve injuries caused by accidents, assaults, or natural disasters. No matter the cause, the EMT's job is to provide basic life support treatments like CPR and wound care while the patient is transported to a hospital. Training to become an EMT can start as early as high school with classes in CPR, first aid, and health sciences. EMTs must also complete special training that takes from six months to two years and pass a state or national exam to get certified. Saving lives is one of the best perks of this career.

## CHALLENGE #1: *If you had this career...*

What kind of training would you need?

Where could you find a job?

How much money could you earn?

Who would you help and how would you make a difference?

Why would (or wouldn't) you like doing a job like this?



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## CHALLENGE #2: Think Tank

For big medical emergencies you dial 911 and get expert care. Other times, like when you fall and scrape a knee or get a splinter in your finger, it takes quick thinking and basic first aid skills to care for the injury.

Use the Internet plus advice from the school nurse or other medical professionals you may know to find out what you should do in case you

- get stung by a bee
- sprain your ankle
- burn yourself when cooking
- get a minor cut or scrape that bleeds
- get a bloody nose

Create a chart with first aid tips for each of these situations (and others you may think of).