



# Becoming an Emergency Medical Responder

## What does an Emergency Medical Responder do?

Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) are out of hospital providers of immediate lifesaving care to critical patients who access the emergency medical services system (EMS). EMRs provide initial interventions while awaiting the arrival of additional EMS response and then aid and assist those higher-level personnel at the scene and during transport. EMRs are often the first EMS worker to arrive at a scene and under medical oversight perform basic interventions with minimal equipment. Many times, law enforcement and firefighters obtain this certification as a secondary certification. Emergency Medical Responders are a vital part of a comprehensive EMS response and must quickly assess patient needs, initiate care and work collaboratively.

## What is the pay for Emergency Medical Responders?

As mentioned, the Emergency Medical Responder certificate is primarily used as a secondary certification for law enforcement and firefighters. Because of this, there is not robust data available for pay.

## What is the job outlook for Emergency Medical Responders?

Emergency Medical Responders are a vital part of Indiana's emergency medical services workforce that are needed in communities throughout the state. Upon completing the requirements to become an Emergency Medical Responders, you will receive a certification that is also a valuable credential in many other occupations and settings, such as firefighters, law enforcement, lifeguarding, trail guides, and industrial settings. If you wish to further pursue a career in Emergency Medical Services, the skills gained from your training as an Emergency Medical Responder will serve as a foundation for additional training as an Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic.

## What training is required?

To become an Emergency Medical Responder, approximately 50.5 hours of training is initially required. After receiving training, you will complete a skills assessment through your training instructor and a cognitive (practical) exam through Ivy Tech. Your training instructor will send your results to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security as your application for state Emergency Medical Responder certification. After certification, EMRs must complete 20 hours of continuing education credits every 2 years.

## What else is required to become an Emergency Medical Responder in Indiana?

You must be over the age of 14 to be certified.

## Where do I get started?

Contact the Indiana Department of Homeland Security at [emscertifications@dhs.in.gov](mailto:emscertifications@dhs.in.gov) to learn more about available training in your area!

### Training Requirement

**50.5 hours:**  
Skill & cognitive exam,  
20 hours of continuing education  
every 2 years

### Average Salary

Usually used as a secondary  
certification for law enforcement  
and firefighters. Because of this,  
there's not robust data for pay.

### Other Requirements

**be 14+**

### Get Started

Email:  
[emscertifications@dhs.in.gov](mailto:emscertifications@dhs.in.gov)

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#### Sources:

National EMS Scope of Practice Model. [https://www.ems.gov/assets/National\\_EMS\\_Scope\\_of\\_Practice\\_Model\\_2019.pdf](https://www.ems.gov/assets/National_EMS_Scope_of_Practice_Model_2019.pdf)

Indiana Emergency Medical Services Commission Levels of EMS Personnel Certification; <https://www.in.gov/dhs/files/Indiana-EMS-Commission-Levels-of-EMS-Personnel-Certification6-2019-c.pdf>