

Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services

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"Since its inception, the purpose of EMS has been to render emergency medical care to sick or injured people in emergency situations. But during the past 40 years, its role has continuously evolved. Modern EMS developed out of simultaneous advances in the science of cardiac resuscitation as well as the recognition of accidental death and disability as a neglected epidemic. It was created to meet the immediate needs of the acutely ill and injured; to provide emergency care and transportation.

Over the past four decades, EMS has expanded to provide emergency medical care for all types of emergencies. And it includes the care of medical emergencies as well as all types of injuries, accidental and intentional. In many areas of the country, it functions as a health care "safety net", especially for the un- or under-insured. Public health authorities have also turned to EMS to assist in prevention activities, to promote health and wellness programs, and to assist in the identification of new or significant outbreaks of illness or injury.

The natural and man-made disasters of recent years have further changed the role of EMS and the need to respond to a growing list of hazards as well as the capability to care for large numbers of patients. Advances in medicine and technology continue to generate changes in operations and advances in medical care provided in the out of hospital setting. In today's world, a comprehensive EMS system is one that is ready for every emergency every day. But first and foremost, caring for the patient(s) remains the priority for EMS".

<http://www.ems.gov/portal/site/ems/menuitem.5149822b03938f65a8de25f076ac8789/?vgnextoid=1ee910d898318110VgnVCM1000002fd17898RCRD>

The Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Section has been charged with the responsibility of developing and sustaining Emergency Medical Services in Wisconsin since 1968. Under WI Statute 256 and its related administrative rules HFS 110-113, and 118 it maintains licensure and regulation of ambulance services, individual providers, EMS training centers, and the trauma care system. During the last 40 years the Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services system has expanded to now include more than 430 ambulance services, 300 first responder groups, and over 18,000 licensed personnel. In addition we collaborate with EMS providers and hospitals to coordinate the trauma care system. The EMS Section is advised by the Governor appointed EMS Board and the Secretary of Health Services appointed State Trauma Advisory Council.

Emergency Medical Services is an allied health profession, it continues to evolve and change. Since the late 1970's the Section has followed national trends and developed five levels of prehospital emergency medical providers each with their own administrative rules for operation. In addition, it has developed a statewide trauma system to optimize the treatment of victims of traumatic injuries and provide for prevention of such injuries.

Being a health related profession the standard of medical care changes frequently providing for new and advanced treatments and equipment to increase survivability. The state of Wisconsin has taken a proactive approach and afforded its citizens and visitors some of the most progressive and widely available care available in the nation. Wisconsin is a leader in the scope of skills, medications, and procedures that we provide. We believe that the patient is most important and we should provide as many safe and effective tools, medications, and procedures for their aid. With this increase of treatments comes the need to assure that the providers are properly trained and qualified.

Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Personnel Training Hours

Emergency Medical Technician Level	Initial Course		Refresher		Ratio
	National Required Hours Minimum	Wisconsin Required Hours Minimum	National Required Hours	Wisconsin Required Hours	Class / Field
First Responder	40	50	13	18	50 / 0
EMT - Basic	110	110	78	30	110 / 0
Intermediate Technician (I-85)	~148	60	78	42	35 / 25
Intermediate	250	335	84	48	225 / 110
Paramedic	1000	1000	72	48	500 / 500

DISCLAIMER – The national numbers represent the accepted standard for these trainings. The national curriculum indicates suggested hour range to cover specific modules of training. They do not provide a collective number as a standard. Most states have accepted the minimum in each area, added them up, and used that number as their minimum required hours. Each state determines the appropriate number of hours based on their needs and their adoption of the curriculum in whole or in part.

- Wisconsin has its minimum hours identified in administrative rule.
- Each training center has the right to extend the hours based on local needs.
- Only the EMT-Basic level has a minimum and maximum hour range 110 – 140. All other levels only identify minimum hours.