



Career Service Authority

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Paramedic

GENERAL STATEMENT OF CLASS DUTIES

This class performs advanced full performance level paraprofessional emergency care and transportation in an out-of-hospital setting under the direction of a physician.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The *Paramedic* class performs advanced full performance level paraprofessional work assessing injuries, administering emergency medical care and transporting injured or sick persons to medical facilities. The *Paramedic* class is distinguished from the *EMT-Basic* class by advanced training that allows the administration of intravenous fluids, the use of manual defibrillators, and the application of advanced airway techniques. The *Paramedic* class provides the most extensive pre-hospital care. The *EMT-Basic* class has the emergency skills to provide basic lifesaving interventions with minimal equipment and functions as part of a comprehensive emergency medical services (EMS) response.

Guidelines, Difficulty and Decision Making Level:

Guidelines are generally numerous, well established and directly applicable to the work assignment. Work assignment and desired results are explained by general oral or written instructions.

Duties assigned are generally repetitive and restricted in scope but may be of substantial intricacy. Employee primarily applies standardized practices.

Decisions or recommendations on non-standardized situations are limited to relating organizational policies to specific cases. Problems that are not covered by guidelines or are without precedent are taken up with the supervisor.

Level of Supervision Received and Quality Review:

Under general supervision, the employee receives assignments and is expected to carry them through to completion with substantial independence. Work is reviewed for adherence to instructions, accuracy, completeness and conformance to standard practice.

Interpersonal Communications and Purpose:

Contacts with persons under stress or emergency conditions where an immediate service is rendered according to established procedures or instructions.

Level of Supervision Exercised:

None.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

Responds to dispatcher to render pre-hospital emergency care and resuscitation to victims at the scene.

Independently performs rapid assessment of emergency scene to determine the need for auxiliary services such as fire and police department.

Evaluates the extent of illness or injury and establishes priorities for care following standing orders, or protocols, or as directed by the base physician via voice communications.

Initiates life-sustaining procedures including advanced life support in accordance with current standards/protocols.

Determines medical disposition of patients and medical facility utilized; secures patient into ambulance and monitors the patient's condition in route to the hospital, providing continuous medical care and treatment.

Ensures readiness of ambulance for service, checks mechanical equipment, performs routine preventive maintenance, tests biomedical equipment such as lifepak and suction units for electrical charge and function, checks medical supply stock levels and restocks as necessary.

Operates emergency vehicles.

Upon arriving at the medical facility, reports observations and care rendered to emergency department personnel.

Completes appropriate patient and daily activity forms.

Provides necessary pre-hospital emergency care to the public in a variety of environments, such as sports facilities, Denver International Airport, and other public gathering places.

Occasionally transports critical care and other patients into and between health facilities.

Occasionally appears in court regarding paramedic action.

May assist in the evaluation of new equipment and medical procedures and the analysis of new drugs and medicines and prepares detailed reports.

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Any one position may not include all of the duties listed.
However, the allocation of positions will be determined by
the amount of time spent in performing the essential duties
listed above.
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MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Competencies, Knowledges & Skills:

Customer Service – Works with clients and customers (that is, any individuals who use or receive the services or products that your work unit produces, including the general public, individuals who work in the agency, other agencies, or outside organizations) to assess their needs, provide information or assistance, resolve their problems, or satisfy their expectations; knows about available products and services; is committed to providing quality products and services and evaluating customer satisfaction.

Medicine and Dentistry – Knowledge of the information and techniques needed to diagnose and treat human injuries, diseases, and deformities. This includes symptom, treatment alternatives, drug properties and interactions, and preventive health-care measures.

Public Safety and Security – Knowledge of intelligence operations; public safety and security operations; occupational health and safety; investigation and inspection techniques; or rules, regulations, precautions, and prevention techniques for the protection of people, data, and property.

Education and Training – Knowledge of the concepts, principles, and theories of instructional methods such as teaching, training, research, making presentations, lecturing, and testing.

Chemistry – Knowledge of the concepts, principles, theories of the composition, structure, and properties of substances, and of the chemical processes and transformations, including uses of chemicals and their interactions, danger signs, production techniques, and disposal methods.

Mathematical Reasoning – Solves practical problems by choosing appropriately from a variety of mathematical and statistical techniques.

Decision Making – Makes sound, well-informed, and objective decisions; perceives the impact and implications of decisions; commits to action, even in uncertain situations, to accomplish organizational goals; causes change.

Reading – Understands and interprets written material, including technical material, rules, regulations, instructions, reports, charts, graphs, or tables; applies what is learned from written material to specific situations.

Writing – Recognizes or uses correct English grammar, punctuation, and spelling; communicates information (for example, facts, ideas, or messages) in a succinct and organized manner; produced written information, which may include technical material, that is appropriate for the intended audience.

Psychology – Knowledge of the concepts, principles, and theories of human behavior and performance in various contexts, mental processes, or the assessment and treatment of behavioral and affective disorders.

Oral Communication – Expresses information (for example, ideas or facts) to individuals or groups effectively, taking into account the audience and nature of the information (for example, technical, sensitive, controversial); makes clear and convincing oral presentations; listens to others, attends to nonverbal cues, and responds appropriately.

Interpersonal Skills– Shows understanding, friendliness, courtesy, tact, empathy, concern, and politeness to others; develops and maintains effective relationships with others; may include effectively dealing with individuals who are difficult, hostile, or distressed; relates well to people from varied backgrounds and different situations; is sensitive to cultural diversity, race, gender, disabilities, and other individual differences.

Learning – Uses efficient learning techniques to acquire and apply new knowledge and skills; uses training, feedback, or other opportunities for self-learning and development..

Oral Communication – Expresses information to individuals or groups effectively, taking into account the audience and nature of the information; makes clear and convincing oral presentations; listens to others, attends to nonverbal cues, and responds appropriately.

Teaching Others – Helps others learn through formal or informal methods; identifies training needs; provides constructive feedback; coaches others on how to perform tasks; acts as a mentor.

Knowledge of and demonstrated competence in a skill set focused on the acute management and transportation of critical and emergent patients.

Skill in giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.

Skill in using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.

Skill in performing routine maintenance on equipment and determining when and what kind of maintenance is needed.

Skill in understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.

Physical Demands:

Balancing: maintaining body equilibrium to prevent falling over

Carrying: transporting an object, usually by hand, arm or shoulder

Crouching: bending body downward and forward by bending legs

Eye/hand/foot coordination: performing work through using two or more

Fingering: picking, pinching or otherwise working with the fingers

Handling: seizing, holding, grasping or otherwise working with hands

Kneeling: bending legs to come to rest on one or both knees

Lifting: raising or lowering an object from one level

Pushing: exerting force upon an object so that the object is away

Pulling: exerting force on an object so that it is moving to the person

Reaching: extending the hand(s) and arm(s) in any direction

Standing: remaining on one's feet in an upright position.

Walking: moving about on foot.

Sitting: remaining in the normal seated position.

Talking: expressing or exchanging ideas by means of spoken words.

Hearing: perceiving the nature of sounds by the ear.

Near vision: ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer).

Accommodation: ability to adjust vision to bring objects into focus

Color vision: ability to distinguish and identify different colors

Depth perception: ability to judge distance and space relationships

Far acuity: ability to see clearly at 20 feet or more

Field of vision: ability to see peripherally

Working Environment:

Extreme cold: temperature cold enough to cause marked bodily discomfort

Extreme heat: temperature hot enough to cause marked bodily discomfort

Temperature changes: variations in temperature from hot to cold

Wet: frequent contact with water or other liquid

Noise: sufficient noise to cause distraction or possible hearing loss

Hazards: conditions where there is danger to life, body, and/or health

Atmospheric conditions: conditions that affect the skin or respiratory system

Education Requirement:

Graduation from high school or possession of a GED certificate.

Experience Requirement:

One (1) year of advanced life support ambulance experience.

Education/Experience Equivalency:

An equivalent combination of education and experience may be substituted for the education and experience requirements.

Licensure and/or Certification:

Possession of a current Colorado Emergency Medical Technician–Paramedic Certificate (EMT-P) issued by the State of Colorado and possession of a valid Colorado Class “R” Driver’s License at the time of appointment. All certificates and licenses must be kept current as a condition of continued employment.

CLASS DETAIL

FLSA CODE: Non-exempt

ESTABLISHED DATE: 09/16/1995

REVISED DATE: 08/01/2005

REVISED BY: Earline Hill

CLASS HISTORY: This class specification was revised into the new format during the Denver Health Paramedic Division reorganization.