

EMT and Paramedic FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)

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EMT TRAINING COURSES

1. Where can I find a list of EMT courses in Alameda County?

Our ALCO EMS Web site (<http://www.acgov.org/ems>) has a list of EMT Courses approved by Alameda County EMS. In addition, there are courses offered by schools that have received EMT Program approval from neighboring counties. See tab 2 for a list of EMT training programs in Alameda County.

2. What is contained in the courses?

Each EMT course must be a minimum of 120 total hours. Of these hours, a minimum of 110 hours is for didactic classroom instruction and skills training, and another minimum of 10 hours for supervised clinical experience. The clinical time is divided into hospital emergency room time, EMT ambulance ride-along time, or both. All programs must follow regulations established by the Emergency Medical Services Agency in Sacramento. The curriculum must be based on the U.S. Department of Transportation's EMT-Basic National Standard Curriculum, DOT HS 808 149, August 1994. At the completion of the program, written and skills exams are given that must be passed to receive a course completion certificate. Following that, you have to take and pass the National Registry of EMTs written exam after which you can apply to an EMS Agency for an EMT card, which is valid statewide.

3. How long are the courses?

The public college courses are a semester in length, meaning from September to mid-December for the Fall semester and January to May for the Spring semester. They may meet one day each week or two evenings per week. Contact the colleges for information on their courses. The private schools offer the courses over different times. Some may last for six to nine weeks, others longer, depending on how often they meet. With such a varied selection of dates and time, most students find a class that fits their needs.

4. How much does an EMT course typically cost?

EMT courses taken at a community college will cost about \$400.00 total for unit fees, books, parking fees, etc. The cost at private schools in our county can range from around \$1200.00 to about \$3000.00.

5. Are there prerequisites to taking an EMT course?

EMT Courses usually require a general first aid and a CPR class as the only prerequisites. Acceptable CPR classes must be taught to the standard of the American Heart Association's *Healthcare Provider* class. For information on the CPR classes, go to tab 2.

6. Is an EMT course taken here accepted statewide?

An EMT Program is accepted statewide, however each county may set specific requirements to certify in their county. Once you are certified by an EMS Agency in the state, your certification is accepted statewide.

TAKING THE NATIONAL REGISTRY EMT EXAM

1. Who needs to take the NREMT written exam?

There are four occasions when someone would take the NREMT written exam:

1. When you have completed an EMT-1 course

2. When your EMT card has been expired for more than one year
3. When you are coming into California from another state and have not taken the NREMT exam
4. If you want to have an NREMT card so you can list the certification on job applications and/or resumes

2. What are prerequisite to taking the exam?

If you are completing an EMT Program:

In order to take the NREMT written exam, you must have completed and passed the written and skills exams of an approved EMT Training program in the previous two years. If it has been longer than 12 months since you completed the program, you must complete another skills verification testing (Skills verification testing is valid for one year).

If you are already an EMT:

If you completed your EMT program more than two years ago, you must take a 24-hour Refresher class and complete the skills verification test, in order to take the NREMT written examination. When the taking Refresher class, be sure to have the instructor sign NREMT application.

3. When and where are the exams offered?

Alameda County EMS offers the NREMT written exam bi-monthly on the first Tuesday morning (9:00 am) of each odd numbered month (January, March, etc.). These exams are open to the public by reservation. Separate exams will be scheduled for local EMT Programs at the end of their courses. The NREMT exam fee is \$20.00 and we do not charge an additional proctoring fee.

If you need an exam between these months, check with the other EMS agencies below to take an exam at their offices, or call Alameda County EMS to determine if other exam dates are scheduled.

The EMS agencies below offer the NREMT written exam on a regular schedule. Some exams may be offered for students of college or private schools and may be closed to outside people. Contact the agency for a complete exam calendar, requirements to take the exam, fee amounts, and to sign up for an exam. Agencies may charge an additional proctoring fee to administer the exam.

- **Contra Costa County EMS** – no proctoring fee
1340 Arnold Drive, Martinez
925-646-4690
First Tuesday of even numbered months
- **San Mateo County EMS** – \$15.00 proctoring fee
225 37th Avenue, San Mateo
650-573-2564
Testing is the third Tuesday of every even numbered month.
- **Santa Clara County EMS** – \$20.00 proctoring fee
645 South Bascom, Room 139, San Jose
408-885-4250
Testing is the third Friday of each month

4. How can I register to take the exam?

- A. Get a copy of the EMT-Basic Application from your instructor or, go to the NREMT web site at www.nremt.org. Click on "Obtain Application," then on either:

- a. [“Click Here To Fill Out NREMT Application Online”](#) to complete an application online. Chose this only if you can print out a copy after finishing the application, or
 - b. [“EMT-Basic Registration Application”](#) to print an Adobe Acrobat PDF of the application
- B. Complete the application.
- C. Add the Program Code (Alameda County EMT programs):
- | | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| a. American Health Education | 152-CA |
| b. Chabot College | 153-CA |
| c. Las Positas College | 350-CA |
| d. Merritt College | 352-CA |
| e. Oakland Fire Department | 550-CA |
| f. Unitek College | 154-CA |
- D. Get the EMT Program information, including classroom hours from your EMT Instructor or Program Director.
- E. After completing the application, it must be signed by the Program Director overseeing your EMT course (in the “EMT-Basic Practical Examination Verification” and the “Statement of Competency in EMT-Basic Skills” sections).
- F. If you are completing an EMT Program in Alameda County, your instructor and/or Program Director will work with EMS in setting up an exam date and site at the completion of your program. They will also help you complete the paperwork prior to the exam.
- G. If you test at another date and time, or are testing separate from completing an EMT program, you are responsible for the paperwork and reserving a seat for an exam. In this case, follow the next two steps:
- H. To test at Alameda County EMS, bring in or send us your completed NREMT application and a money order in the amount of \$20.00 payable to the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. This reserves your seat. Our address is Alameda County EMS, 1000 San Leandro Blvd, Suite 200, San Leandro, CA 94577.
- I. To test through another EMS agency, go to our Web site at www.acgov.org/ems. Click on the NREMT Exam Information and find the listings for other agencies. Call the agency to determine exam openings and be added to their list for a specific exam date.

5. What must I bring to the exam?

Plan on arriving early for the exam. Persons arriving late will not be allowed to take the exam and will have to reschedule. Come to the exam site with:

- A completed NREMT application, signed by the Program Director.
- A copy of your EMT course completion certificate.
- A copy of the front and back of your CPR card. Your CPR card must be equivalent to the American Heart Association’s *Healthcare Provider* level.
- Two #2 pencils with erasers.
- A photo id.
- A \$20.00 money order payable to the NREMT.

6. What will prevent me from taking the exam?

You can be denied the opportunity to sit for the exam for several reasons:

- Failing to have your NREMT EMT-Basic Application signed by your Program Director
- Forgetting to bring a copy of your EMT course completion certificate
- Forgetting to bring a copy of your CPR card or having the wrong CPR course

- Forgetting to bring a money order for payment
- Forgetting a photo ID
- Showing up for a test without reserving a seat

7. What is the exam day schedule?

The first half hour is for turning the exam paperwork and copies of your CPR card. Then the rules of the exam will be read after which you are allowed 2 ½ hours to complete the exam.

8. What kind of exam is it and what is a passing score?

The NREMT exam consists of 150 multiple-choice questions taken from the 1994 National Standard EMT-Basic Curriculum. A passing score is 70 percent.

9. If I have a learning disability can I get special accommodations?

The NREMTs will offer reasonable and appropriate accommodations for the written component of the registration examination for those persons with documented learning disabilities.

Those persons requesting accommodations for the written component of the registration examination must submit documented evidence of a learning disability. Appropriate documentation must be submitted by the applicant and must be received three to four weeks prior to the examination.

The types of accommodations which may be requested by persons qualifying for special accommodations on the written examination due to documented learning disability in reading decoding and or reading comprehension are as follows:

- The National Registry of EMTs will permit those persons who qualify for special accommodations on the written examination due to a documented learning disability in reading decoding, reading comprehension, and/or written expression to take the standard format of the examination but receive an extended amount of time in which to complete the examination. Applicants selecting this option will normally receive 3.75 hours versus the standard 2.5 hours.
- Additional accommodations may be provided as appropriate.

Applicants requesting accommodations should apply at least three weeks prior to their test date. To see the NREMT policy and for more information, go to http://www.nremt.org/about/policy_accommodations.asp

10. When will I get the results of my exam?

The NREMT will mail you the results of the exam and your NREMT card usually with two weeks. You can go to the www.NREMT.org website and by putting in your name and social security number, see whether you passed. This is often up on the website within ten working days after you have taken the exam. Exams given at the end of college semester, will take longer to score because of the large number of exams being given across the country. A copy of your NREMT card must be submitted with your Alameda County EMT Certification application.

11. What if I fail the exam and need to retake it?

Candidates failing the exam are allowed three opportunities to complete the written examination. To take the exam a fourth time, you must complete a 24-hour Refresher

class. This allows you to take the exam three more times. If you have not passed the exam after six attempts, the entire EMT program must be repeated. Taking the exam again requires repeating the “Registering for the Exam” process, except the Program Director does not have to sign the application.

12. What will the NREMT card do for me?

An NREMT card certifies you have passed the state and local EMS agencies mandated certification exam. Whether you maintain the card is up to you. The card is widely accepted across state lines as THE card required for local certification.

13. How do I keep my NREMT card current?

Your NREMT card can be kept current by following the NREMT requirements that can be found at www.nremt.org.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I HAVE MY EMT CARD

1. Once I have my EMT Card, where can I work?

EMTs typically work in ambulances while others work in hospital emergency rooms. A search in the Yellow Pages under Ambulance Service or Hospitals will give you numbers where you can start your job search.

2. What do I have to do to maintain certification?

On an on going basis, you need to

- Keep your CPR certificate current.
- Keep your EMT card current by renewing it every two years. See the section *EMT Recertification* for information on the recertification process.
- Take continuing education or refresher classes necessary for renewal. See the *Continuing Education* section for this information.

THE EMT APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Can I mail my application or do I have to apply in person?

We accept applications by mail or in person. Our front office is staffed between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

2. How long will it take to get my card?

Typically an application is processed in about 2 weeks. Occasionally, it may take longer. We process applications as quickly and efficiently as we can. One way to speed up your application is to make sure your application is filled-out completely and all required documentation is attached. We do not issue cards on the same day an application is turned in. We cannot issue a card until the background check is complete.

3. Why did you deny my application?

There are occasions when an application has been filled out wrong, has the wrong CPR class, is not signed, has failed to include the fee, etc. In these cases, we send a letter to explain what is wrong with your materials. Your application will be processed when you submit the necessary materials.

4. Where is my EMT-1 card accepted?

An EMT-1 card issued by any EMS agency in the state is valid statewide. You do not have to apply for a card from any other agency in order to work in their county.

5. Can Alameda County EMS help me find a job as an EMT?

ALCO EMS does not provide job-matching assistance, however we can provide you with the names of local ambulance providers and/or hospitals that typically hire EMTs.

EMT INITIAL CERTIFICATION

1. When can I apply for my EMT-1 card?

After completing an EMT-1 course, and passing the NREMT written exam, you have two years (from the date on the course completion certificate) to apply for EMT-1 certification from any EMS agency in the state. Tab 3 has our *EMT Certification* policy.

2. Is there an age requirement?

You must be at least eighteen years of age to certify as an EMT.

3. What do I need to turn in?

Your EMT application package must include:

- A signed EMT Certification application (available online at www.acgov.org/ems or through our office).
- A copy of your course completion certificate from an approved California EMT-1 training program.
- A copy of your NREMT card.
- A copy of the front and back of your current CPR card that is equivalent to the American Heart Association's *Healthcare Provider* level.
- A copy of a photo id: current driver's license, ID card, or valid military ID card.
- A copy of your completed Live Scan form.
- The non-refundable fee: money order, cashier's check or municipal purchase order in the amount of \$35.00 payable to Alameda County EMS. (No personal checks or cash).

4. How soon after the end of the course can get my EMT card?

As part of the verification process, we receive course rosters for classes taught in Alameda County. Your training program has 15 days after the course ends to send these to the EMS office. Generally it will take two weeks to process your application once we receive the roster and your completed application.

5. How long is my EMT card valid?

EMT-1 cards are valid for two years and expire two years from the last day of the month in which the completed certification application paperwork was received and approved by the Alameda County EMS Agency. The expiration date is on your card.

6. What are the most common reasons for denial of an EMT card?

The most common reason is when a student has taken the wrong CPR class. See the *CPR Classes* section for information on the acceptable classes. The second most common reason is a positive criminal background check of significant cause for us to

deny your application. See the *Background Check & Live Scan* section for more on this topic.

7. Is there a time limit to apply for county certification?

You have two years from the date of your course completion certificate to apply for Alameda County certification. Applications submitted after that date will not be accepted and you must take the complete course over again.

EMT RECERTIFICATION

1. What are the basic recertification requirements?

Every two years you must complete 24-hours of continuing education or a 24-hour Refresher class and complete a skills verification test.

2. What do I need to turn in?

Your EMT application package must include:

- A signed EMT Recertification application (available online or through our office). A copy of the application form can be found under Tab 5.
- A copy of the front and back of your CPR card. See the section *CPR Classes* to make sure your class is acceptable.
- A copy of your driver's license (or other photo id if you do not have a license).
- Copies of your continuing education certificates or your refresher certificate.
- A copy of your skills verification test form.
- A copy of your completed Live Scan form if this is the first time you are certifying through Alameda County EMS.
- A money order, cashier's check or municipal purchase order in the amount of \$35.00 payable to Alameda County EMS. (No personal checks or cash).

3. When can I submit my recertification application?

It is a good idea to turn your materials in at least a month before your expiration date. You cannot expect to turn your materials in the day you expire and have it taken care of. Your recertification application package can be submitted up to six months in advance of your card expiring. Your new expiration date will be two years from the current expiration date, unless your card has expired in which card it will be two years from the issue date.

4. What kind of CEUs are acceptable and when should I take a refresher course?

For information on continuing education and refresher courses, go to the *Continuing Education & Refresher Courses* section.

5. Can I work as an EMT with an expired card?

You may not work as an EMT or represent yourself as an EMT if your card has expired. One day late is the same as six months late. There are no extensions of your expiration date.

6. My certification has expired. What do I have to do?

State law requires that if you turn your recertification materials after your card has expired, the following regulations apply:

- For a card expired six months or less, complete 24 hours of CE plus the Skills Competency Verification testing.

- For a card expired more than six months but less than one year, complete 36 hours of CE plus the Skills Competency Verification testing.
- For a card expired for more than one year but less than two years, complete 48 hours of CE, pass the written NREMT exam, and complete the Skills Competency Verification testing.
- For a card expired two years or more, retake an entire EMT course.

Local EMT Training Programs offer the refresher classes and the skills testing. For a list of the EMT *Training Programs* in Alameda County see Tab 2.

7. How long do I have to recertify once my card has expired?

You have two years to recertify. After that, you have to take the complete EMT course over again and then apply for certification.

CPR CLASSES

1. What CPR cards do you accept?

We accept CPR classes that are equivalent to the American Heart Association's *Healthcare Provider* level. Other classes *may* be accepted if they meet that standard. Some agencies teach to these standards, others may not. When in doubt, ask! The most common classes are the American Heart Association's *Healthcare Provider* and the Red Cross *CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer*.

2. What happens if I've taken the wrong CPR class?

If you submit your application with the wrong CPR card, it will be returned and will need to be resubmitted with the correct CPR card. Commonly submitted wrong cards include: Red Cross' *Adult CPR*, *Adult CPR/AED*, and *Adult / Infant / Child CPR*, or the American Heart Association's *Heartsaver Card*.

3. Where can I get the correct CPR classes in Alameda County?

You can take CPR classes at many locations. The locations below are a few of those in Alameda County we have found to offer the correct CPR classes.

- **Fast Response** – <http://www.FastResponse.org>
1015 University Avenue, Berkeley
510-849-4009
Class: American Heart Association Healthcare Provider (valid for 2 years)
- **American Health Education** – <http://www.AmericanHealthEducation.com>
7300 Amador Plaza Road, Dublin
800-483-3615
Class: American Heart Association Healthcare Provider (valid for 2 years)
- **The Red Cross** – <http://www.BayArea-RedCross.org>
800-520-5433
Class: CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer (valid for 1 year)

BACKGROUND / LIVE SCAN CHECKS

1. Why is a background check required?

Like many agencies, EMS is concerned with the integrity of its prehospital personnel. We require the Live Scan background check for all EMTs just as the EMS Authority at the state level requires of all paramedics. The California Department of Justice (DOJ) performs the applicant's background check for any type of criminal history.

2. What is the background check process?

The background check process began on September 1, 2002. A Live Scan form is completed and an appointment made to have your fingerprints electronically taken. The prints are electronically transmitted to the DOJ where they are run through their system. The process is described fully in the *Background Check Packet* (tab 6).

3. Where do I find Live Scan forms and the information to put on them?

Live Scan forms are available online or can be picked up at the EMS Agency Monday through Friday between 8:30 am and 4:45 pm. The form on our Web site can be filled out online and printed. If necessary, a form can be sent to you. There is an accompanying five-page document that explains the process, how to fill out the form, a sample form, and locations where the Live Scan can be done (*Background Check Packet*, tab 6). A sample of the *Live Scan Form* can be found at tab 7.

4. How much does the Live Scan process cost?

There are two fees associated with getting a Live Scan. One is the "rolling fee" charged by the agency that does the Live Scan, about \$20.00, and another fee charged by the DOJ to process the prints, about \$32.00. Fees are subject to change. Contact the Live Scan agency to get an exact cost and to know what forms of payments they will accept.

5. What does the Alameda County Background Check Policy cover?

Our *Background Check Policy* under tab 9 explains

- How we administer the process
- Who needs to do a Live Scan and who is exempt
- What we require from you if you have a positive arrest and / or conviction history
- Guidelines for denial, suspension or revocation of an EMT certificate; and a process in case you are denied certification
- Privacy guarantee

6. Who is exempt from doing a Live Scan?

Employees of Alameda County Public Safety agencies who had a background check as part of the hiring process are exempt from this requirement. The Live Scan process provides background information to EMS on an ongoing basis, not just at the time of the initial check. Therefore, in order to receive this information for any subsequent arrests and/or convictions, everyone else, including employees of non Alameda County Public Safety agencies is required to submit a Live Scan DOJ background check.

7. How long does the background check process take?

For the individual with a clean background, the prints usually clear in 48 to 72-hours. If you have an arrest and/or conviction(s) in your background, the process will take considerably longer. The time depends on how long it takes the DOJ to report back on your fingerprints. It may take from several weeks to several months. If you have a

positive conviction history, we advise you to do your background check as soon as possible.

8. What will the Live Scan show?

The Live Scan gives us a printout of any criminal history in your background including the court outcome. If you have an arrest and/or conviction in your background, you will be asked to provide us with an explanation of the event and copies of the court docket for each case on your record. From that information we will make a determination regarding whether or not to issue you an EMT certificate.

9. What happens if I have a positive arrest and / or conviction history?

Any positive history, regardless of the infraction, will be investigated. The applicant must submit a copy of the final court docket of the infraction(s) and a letter of explanation providing us with the details the infraction(s). Additional materials that may be submitted include: letters of recommendations from current and past employers or instructors, and / or letters about the applicant's character. Because a positive history typically results in delays in the DOJ system, we will submit copies of the materials to the DOJ to help finalize a decision. If you have a positive conviction history, we advise you to do your background check as soon as possible.

10. What happens if I have an arrest and / or conviction after a negative Live Scan?

In addition to certification / recertification actions, an EMT certificate may be suspended or revoked based on subsequent criminal history. In other words, if your initial Live Scan is negative, and you subsequently get in trouble, we are notified by the DOJ. Depending on the problem, you may be asked to provide us with information on the incident.

11. I've had a Live Scan done for another agency. Can you use that information?

Unfortunately, agencies cannot share Live Scan information. Even though you may have done a Live Scan for DMV or for a company as part of their employment process, they cannot share the results with us. You have to do a Live Scan specifically for ALCO EMS.

12. Where can I have the Live Scan done in Alameda County?

There are many Live Scan sites in Alameda County. On our web site, under the *EMT Certification* button, go to *Live Scan Sites* to see a complete list and information about their hours and fees. A list of *Live Scan Agencies* (tab 8) is a part of the *Background Check Packet* (tab 6).

13. How can I find Live Scan sites outside of Alameda County?

Your Live Scan can be done anywhere in the state, or even outside of California. Go to the DOJ web site at <http://caag.state.ca.us/fingerprints/index.htm> to view a file that shows locations in other counties in California. To find site outside of California, you have two choices.

- Do a search on Google with “<your state> Live Scan” where <your state> is the name of the state in which you want to do a Live Scan. Searching by state and county may narrow your search further.
- Inquire at your local Police Department whether they do the Live Scan testing.

CONTINUING EDUCATION & REFRESHER COURSES

1. What's the difference between continuing education and refresher courses?

Continuing education courses are typically one to two hour courses on a variety of topics. Multiple courses are taken to obtain the needed number of hours. Often conferences offer one or more days of continuing education credits. Refresher courses are typically 24 hours in length (spread over multiple days or evenings) and are focused on teaching commonly used skills and learning experiences.

1. Where can I take continuing education or refresher courses?

Continuing education and refresher courses for recertification can be taken anywhere; they do not have to be done in Alameda County. They must however be offered from an approved prehospital CE provider. See tab 2 for a list of EMT Training Programs, 24-Hour Refresher classes, and On-line CE providers.

2. How can I find continuing education classes?

Continuing education courses are offered by different organizations. Call a few of the organizations on the list and ask if they have any upcoming classes. EMT Training Programs often allow individuals to sit in on lectures for CEs. Many of the agencies offer CE classes to their employees but not to the general public.

Alameda County EMS may know of upcoming classes or conferences. Give us a call at 510-618-2038 to see if there are any classes or conferences pending.

On-line CE providers offer classes that can be taken by EMTs and paramedics. Many of these sources are listed in the document under tab 2.

If you take on-line or out-of-state classes, they must be CECBEMS accredited. CECBEMS stands for Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services. Most are but you will want to verify this before paying for classes.

4. Why would I choose a refresher course over continuing education courses?

If you work as an EMT, continuing education classes are a good way to learn about different topics. If you are not working in the field, a refresher course is a good way to review the subjects and skills you are expected to know. A refresher course also offers the skills verification testing needed for recertification.

5. How much continuing education do I need?

You need 24 hours from an approved CE Provider every two years in order to recertify. The courses must have been taken during the two years prior to your recertifying.

6. What do I do with my CE certificates?

Your certificates must be kept for four years. Copies must be submitted with your recertification application.

7. Why wouldn't you accept my continuing education paperwork?

An approved Prehospital CE Provider must have a CE provider number issued to them by a local EMS Agency or the state EMS Authority. The number is shown on the class certificate (it is a 6-digit number xx-xxxx). CE classes may be taken from any provider with a prehospital CE number and do not have to be taken in Alameda County.

Some nursing classes and college classes are acceptable. Call the Alameda County EMS office if unsure.

SKILLS VERIFICATION TESTING

1. When do I need to do a skills verification test?

Skills exams are done at the end of your EMT course. Following your EMT certification, you will need to complete another skills verification test with each two-year certification. The skills test is valid for one year. It is your responsibility to take the test when it is due and provide documentation with your next recertification application.

2. Where can I take a skills verification test?

EMT Training Programs typically offer refresher courses with skills exams. Check tab 2 for a list of the local EMT training Programs that offers skills testing. The refresher courses are often done near the end of the regular EMT courses. Contact the training programs for upcoming dates of their skills exams and refresher courses.

CHALLENGE EXAMINATION

1. Can I challenge the EMT exam?

Only a currently licensed physician, registered nurse, physician assistant, vocational nurse, currently licensed EMT-P, or an individual with documented evidence of successfully completing an EMT training program of the Armed Forces as defined in Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2, section 100078 is eligible to take a challenge exam. The EMS office can help you arrange an examination.

OUT-OF-COUNTY OR OUT-OF-STATE CERTIFICATIONS

1. What if I took an EMT course in California but outside of Alameda County?

Our EMT Certification policy states that if you took your EMT class in another county, you must provide written documentation that you have passed an approved written and skills certification examination. Many EMT course certificates include a statement on the certificate attesting to the completion of a written & skills exam, if not you will need to get this information from your training program.

2. What if I took an EMT course out-of-state but never received an EMT card?

If you have never received an EMT card after completing an out-of-state course, you must submit a copy of your NREMT card. If you do not have an NREMT card, you will have to take and pass the NRTEMT exam.

3. What if I have an EMT certificate from another state?

Even if you have an out-of-state EMT card, you must have a valid NREMT card. You must submit a recertification application, a copy of your CPR card from an approved course, the fee, a copy of your NREMT card, and, if you have one, your out-of-state card. You will be issued an EMT card with the same expiration date as is on your NREMT card. If you have an out-of-state card but do not have an NREMT card, you will have to take and pass the NREMT written exam.

4. Can I challenge the EMT exam?

Individuals from out-of-county or out-of-state can challenge the EMT exam only if they are a currently licensed physician, registered nurse, physician assistant, vocational nurse, an EMT-P, or have documented evidence of successfully completing an EMT training program of the Armed Forces.

PARAMEDIC ACCREDITATION

1. When and why do I need paramedic accreditation?

The state's Emergency Medical Services Authority in Sacramento licenses you as a paramedic. In order to work in Alameda County you must be accredited by ALCO EMS.

2. How much does paramedic accreditation cost?

The fee for paramedic accreditation is \$25.00. Accreditation forms are available through the EMS office or our Web site at <http://www.acgov.org/ems>.

3. What does local accreditation involve?

Accreditation to practice as a paramedic in Alameda County shall be granted upon successful completion of the following:

- Provide evidence of a valid California Paramedic License
- Attend the Alameda County EMS system orientation (offered monthly)
- Provide documentation of training and competency in the local optional and expanded scope of practice
- Complete an accreditation application (tab 11).
- Pay the accreditation fee
- Provide proof of employment with an approved Paramedic provider agency

Accreditation will be granted upon successful completion of the above elements within 30 days from the date the accreditation application is received. Candidates failing to do so must reapply.

4. How long is the accreditation good for?

Your accreditation is continuous as long as you:

- Maintain your California Paramedic license.
- Meet local requirements for updates in local policy, procedure, protocol and local optional scope of practice, and comply with the requirements in the system-wide Quality Improvement program.

5. Can I lose my accreditation, and if so, then what?

If any of the above requirements are not met or maintained, accreditation to practice shall be withdrawn until successful completion of the requirement(s). A Paramedic whose accreditation has been withdrawn for more than one year shall be required to re-apply for initial accreditation. You may only work in your basic scope of practice until your accreditation is current.

6. Where can I find out more about accreditation?

Our Paramedic Accreditation policy (tab 10) describes the local accreditation process.

7. As a paramedic, do I need an EMT card?

No, An individual who is currently licensed as a paramedic in California is considered to be a certified EMT-1 without any additional testing (except when the paramedic license or EMT-II certificate is under suspension).

8. What if I want an EMT card anyway?

A currently licensed EMT-P who wants to obtain a separate EMT-1 certificate should complete the application process and submit a copy of his/her current EMT-P license to the EMS Office. The expiration date of the EMT-1 certificate will be the same as the expiration date of the EMT-P license.