

NEW MEMBERS – FAQ

THE AEMT, EMT or EMR COURSE

1. How long is the AEMT, EMT or EMR Course?

The EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) is 72 hours, the EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) is 212 hours, the AEMT (Advanced Emergency Medical Technician) is 170 hours long. You must be a licensed EMT to enroll into the AEMT course.

2. Where are courses held?

All the EMR, EMT and AEMT courses are taught through the Technical Colleges and their outreach centers. Sometimes, courses are located in northern Oconto County.

3. What if I miss a class (or two)?

The State of Wisconsin requires certain number of hours of instruction for all license levels. If a class is missed, those hours must be made up. Talk with your instructor prior to the start of the course for a definitive answer to this question.

4. What will it cost me?

The Mountain Ambulance Service will pay the cost of the course. The student will pay the cost of the books and other materials (approx. cost up to \$300).

5. What else is required?

- a.) You must become an employee of Mountain Ambulance Service
- b.) You must be at least 18 years old when the class begins
- c.) You must have current CPR certification for Healthcare Professionals
- d.) You must have proof of current health status and immunizations
- e.) You must agree to a criminal background check (in compliance with the Wisconsin Caregiver Law)

6. How hard is it?

That depends on you. Some students find it very difficult, while others have no difficulty. The course includes some lectures, some tests, and a lot of hands-on practice. Many students say that no part of the course is extremely difficult in itself, but that there is a lot of information given in a fairly short period of time. Keeping up with the reading helps. For others, it's more of a challenge. They all say it's worth the effort.

DRIVER TRAINING

1. Do you have people who just drive?

We do have individuals who just drive the ambulance but it is highly encouraged to obtain, at a minimum, an EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) license.

2. I'm a good driver, but never drove anything but a car. Is that OK?

Yes, that's fine. Driving an ambulance is not like driving a car or truck, but that's what training is for.

3. How does a driver get trained? How long does it take?

Driver-trainees will go on actual calls with an experienced driver. They will watch, listen and learn on the way to the hospital. On the way back, they will have an opportunity for some hands-on driving experience. A trainee will NEVER drive the ambulance with a patient onboard. When the trainee AND the experienced drivers feel that he/she is ready (a minimum of ten calls), the trainee can advance to full driver status.

4. Do I need a Commercial Drivers License (CDL)?

No, just a valid Wisconsin drivers license.

BEING AN EMT OR DRIVER (Once the training is over)

1. I'm not sure I can handle all the blood and guts. How bad does it get?

A few calls are bloody, messy and scary, but they are the exception, not the rule. Most calls (well over than 90%) are not. There's no way for anyone to predict how they'll react to that rare scary call, but most ambulance people do what they learned in class – just take a deep breath and let your training take over.

2. I live somewhere else, but spend a lot of summer weekends in the area. Is that OK?

Yes. Some MAS members live and work elsewhere, and help out on the ambulance schedule when they're here for a week or a weekend.

3. I leave for a few weeks (or months) in the winter (or summer). Is that OK?

Yes. We sign up for time on the schedule one month at a time. If you're going to be gone, and if it's going to be a long-term absence, take a formal leave of absence. If it's short-term, just don't sign up for ambulance schedule time.

4. I'm (name an age). Is that too old (young)?

EMT's and Drivers must be 18 years of age. Only you know what the limit is on the upper end. Our members range in age from their late teens to their 60's and 70's.

5. I don't know anyone on the MAS service. Will I fit in?

Our members are different ages, from different backgrounds, with different tastes and different styles. We share a commitment to EMS, and a willingness to work hard for something important. We get along with each other pretty well – and we welcome everyone.

6. I'm already a licensed EMT/Paramedic/First Responder. What would I have to do?

If you're licensed in the State of Wisconsin, you'd go through an in-house orientation, and some paperwork for you to become credentialed with Mountain Ambulance. If you're licensed in another state, it would depend on the state. Stop in or call, and we'll look into it further.

7. I'm already a licensed RN/MD/PA/NP. What would I have to do to work as an EMT?

You would not have to take the EMT-Basic course. You would, however, have to take the EMT Refresher class if you have not been involved directly with emergency services. (EMS work in the field is not necessarily the same thing you've been doing – it involves different skills, and different protocols). Stop in or call, and we can give you more info.

8. What about pay?

First out ambulance crews are paid hourly at a rate set by the Ambulance Commission. Those crews are required to be at the station for their shifts. Back up ambulance crews can respond from home and will get an hourly pay rate (lower than in station crews) for the time they are on back up.

9. Do I have to stay at the station while on call?

If you are on shift for the first out ambulance, Yes. If you are on a backup crew you do not need to be at the station and can respond from anywhere in the jurisdiction.

10. I have bad knees (or back or ???). Is that a problem?

Being an EMT or driver sometimes requires some lifting. We don't want any of our members to injure themselves – when extra help is needed to lift or move a patient, we call for more help. If you're concerned about your knees, back or anything else, you should discuss it with your doctor.