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Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics (EMTs with advanced training to perform more difficult pre-hospital medical procedures) provide vital care and attention at the scene of an emergency. In an emergency, EMTs and paramedics are dispatched to the scene usually by a 911 operator and often work with police and fire department personnel. Once they arrive, they determine the nature and extent of a person's condition and administer appropriate level of care.

People's lives often depend on the quick reactions of and competent care by EMTs and paramedics. EMTs and paramedics respond to emergency calls, assess injuries, sometimes free trapped individuals or remove them from danger, and administer emergency medical care. They also transport injured or sick persons to medical facilities, typically providing additional medical care in route

EMTs are trained to care for patients at the scene of an accident and while transporting patients by ambulance to the hospital. EMTs have the emergency skills to assess a patient's condition and manage respiratory, cardiac, and trauma emergencies.