

EMT Medical Examination Guidance for Physicians

During the medical evaluation, the physician shall evaluate each individual to ascertain the presence of any medical conditions listed in documents similar to or from the National Fire Protection Association's 1582, Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments. The medical evaluation should also include any medical conditions not listed which would prevent the individual from performing the "Essential Job Tasks" of an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) without posing significant risk. It is our intent to encourage the use of professional judgment regarding medical conditions which are not specifically listed in the medical evaluation reference material specific to the firefighting occupation.

Essential Emergency Medical Technician job tasks potentially to be performed:

1. Lifting and moving patients
2. Pushing, pulling, controlling equipment in field and/or hospital setting, i.e. oxygen cylinders, cardiac monitors, stretchers, etc.
3. Performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
4. Climbing up to and beyond six flights of stairs
5. Hearing audible alarms, also heart and lung sounds
6. Auscultate blood pressures of patients
7. Operating in unpredictable emergencies for prolonged periods in extreme conditions without warm-up, rest, nutrition/hydration, or access to medications.
8. Operating emergency response apparatus in "emergency mode" (vehicles and equipment).
9. Performing complex problem solving in extreme conditions.
10. Communicating under very poor conditions
11. Functioning as a part of a medical response team where there are great risks of injury and/or death to emergency responders and civilians.

The medical evaluation shall minimally include the following:

- Comprehensive medical history
- Baseline (pre-placement) occupational history, including significant past exposures and training and experience with personal protection equipment
- Height and weight
- Vital signs: pulse, respiration, blood pressure, and, if indicated, temperature
- Dermatological system
- Ears, eyes, nose, mouth, throat
- Cardiovascular system
- Respiratory system
- Gastrointestinal system
- Genitourinary system
- Endocrine and metabolic systems
- Musculoskeletal system
- Neurological system
- Mental status evaluation

All medical information collected as part of a medical evaluation shall be considered confidential medical information, and shall be released by the physician only with the specific written consent of the Emergency Medical Technician student. The physician shall report the results of the medical evaluation to the Student, including any medical condition(s) disclosed during the medical evaluation, and the recommendation whether the recruit is medically certified to perform as an Emergency Medical Technician. The physician shall inform the Director of Public Safety only whether or not the Student is medically certified to perform as an Emergency Medical Technician. The specific written consent of the Student shall be required to release confidential medical information to the Emergency Medical Coordinator at Mitchell Community College, following guidelines set forth under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other relevant policies.

You may contact the Director of Public Safety—David Bullins at (704) 978-5446 or dbullins@mitchellcc.edu or the EMS Program Coordinator—Jim Larsen at (704) 878-4365 or jlarsen@mitchellcc.edu for questions and additional guidance on qualifying a student to participate in the Emergency Medical Technician training.