

**Roanoke County  
Fire and Rescue  
Department is  
committed to  
providing quality  
fire and EMS  
services to the  
citizens and  
visitors of  
Roanoke County,  
Virginia.**



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**Roanoke County  
Fire & Rescue**



**EMS  
Certification  
Requirements  
for Career  
Personnel**

**Main #: 540-777-8701**

## Introduction

In 1986 the Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Department became the first career fire department in the Roanoke Valley to integrate Advanced Life Support into the fire department. Since that time Roanoke County has been committed to providing the highest quality of emergency medical services to its citizens.

As part of the Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Department the new employee must acquire and maintain several emergency medical service (EMS) certifications. Roanoke County Fire and Rescue will provide paid training for these required certifications

## EMT-Basic

The Emergency Medical Technician-Basic level certification (EMT-B) is the initial EMS course that a new recruit must complete during the Regional Fire-EMS Academy. EMT-B is over 140 hours in length and college credits are applied. It requires on average 7 – 10 hours per week of out-of-class study. During this certification course the recruit will learn basic principals of emergency medical services including:

- Infection control
- Medical legal issues
- Functional anatomy
- Control of a patient's airway
- Response to medical emergencies such as a heart attack, diabetic shock, and anaphylactic reaction

The recruit will also learn about the basics of traumatic emergencies such as bleeding and shock, soft tissue injuries, as well as musculoskeletal trauma. To successfully complete this course the recruit must maintain an average grade of 80 % in the academy

before being allowed to test for the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services, EMT-B Certification Examination. This exam has both a written and practical component that a recruit must successfully pass.

## EMT-Intermediate

The Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate (EMT-I) is a 12-month course that meets twice a week for a total of 8 hours. This course consists of over 500 hours of classroom, laboratory, clinical and field coursework. Successful completion of this program will give 20 college credits in the Virginia Community College system.

The EMT-I curriculum builds on the foundations learned in the EMT-B curriculum to include:

- IV therapy
- Medication administration
- Interpretation of ECG
- Calculate Drug dosages
- Perform advanced airway procedures

The EMT-I is considered an advanced life support (ALS) provider within the Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Department. It has been determined that the average study time that a student spends outside of class is three hours for every one hour of class time.

## EMT-Paramedic

Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P) is the highest level a pre-hospital provider can obtain. It should be the goal of every new employee to achieve this level. Roanoke County Fire and Rescue will make this training available to the employee after two years of service as an EMT-I.

This level consists of over 700 hours of additional training in all aspects of emergency care. The

Paramedic will be more proficient in skill and knowledge regarding:

- Human anatomy and physiology
- Pharmacology
- Patient assessment
- Illness and injury

## College Credit

The Roanoke Valley Regional Fire-EMS Training Center in conjunction with the Virginia Community College System grants 19 credits for the Roanoke Valley Regional Fire-EMS Academy and an additional 20 credits for the successful completion of the EMT-I program.

## Contacts:

If you have any questions regarding this material we encourage you to contact one of the individuals listed below.

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