

Target Keyword: Safety Tips for EMTs
Page Title: Safety Tips for EMTs to Keep in Mind

Working in the emergency medical services can be highly rewarding, but also incredibly demanding. The job of an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) is not an easy one. Medical emergencies, hostile scenes, and tense situations are par for the course. An EMT, on any given evening, may respond to heart attacks, food poisoning calls, domestic violence situations, and motor vehicle accidents. Some patients may just be in need of transport, while others may be on the brink of death. These situations can be emotionally difficult for EMTs, but there are also physical safety concerns that should be considered. These safety tips for EMTs are intended to keep EMTs safe on the job.

1. Check out the Scene

In the world of emergency medicine, it is not just about the patient. Bystanders and the scene itself can be hazardous to the health of EMS professionals. One of the most important safety tips for EMTs is to know the surroundings. Before exiting the vehicle, check out the houses and scene. Look for angry bystanders, consider potential threats and be mindful before entering a location. While the goal is to provide medical attention to those in need, EMTs must also consider what they are walking into to ensure that proper attention is given to the patient and everyone is safe as the process is moved along.

2. Work with the Police

Knowing the scene is one of the most important safety tips that EMTs should follow, they must also realize that working with the police in a direct and civil manner is paramount. The police can be utilized to secure a scene, to deal with irate bystanders and even to pass along important information to EMTs as they get started with their job. Working directly with the police and garnering information before arriving, or right upon arrival, can help to ensure all parties involved are safe and comfortable with what is being done.

3. Always use all Safety Equipment

The safety equipment provided to EMTs is there to ensure the safety of both the patient and the EMT. One of the most important safety tips for EMTs is to always use those safety measures. Goggles, gloves, vests and all other precautions should be utilized at all times to minimize the risk of blood borne pathogens and to ensure the health and wellness of all those involved in emergency calls. Yes, it can seem like no big deal to forgo a small piece of equipment, but it is not a big deal, and running back to get an item during a crisis is actually more helpful to the patient and the EMT than staying and trying to be a hero. To ensure you aren't missing anything, it is suggested that you check your gear prior to leaving for your shift and to double check your supply of gear throughout the evening. It

is better to run back to base during a lull, than to be caught without important safety equipment in the midst of a medical crisis.

4. Consider Cultural Differences

If you are working in a large, metropolitan area you are likely to encounter a slew of different cultures, languages, religions and ethnic traditions. It is important to keep these in mind while working a scene. Understanding the cultural difference you are coming in contact with can help to diffuse aggressive behaviors, and to calm a patient and their family as you are dealing with their medical emergency. A little bit of understanding actually goes a long way, and can be truly beneficial. It may not seem like a big deal, nor may it seem like the most important of safety tips for EMTs, but it can really help to diffuse a situation quickly, or prevent it from escalating into a large problem.

5. Create a Plan with Your Partner

Talk with your partner and set up your plan for the evening. Whether it is the first time you've ever worked with your partner before, or it's the 100th time you've worked together, it is always a good idea to lay down your expectations and decide who will handle what. Not only does it make the entire process more efficient, but it is one of the safety tips for EMTs that is often easily overlooked. This isn't just about efficiency and working together, it is about ensuring the safety of you and your partner.