



# Montana Board of Medical Examiners: Professional Licensing of Emergency Medical Technicians

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A brief review of our:  
**HISTORY, CURRENT and  
FUTURE Activities**



# Montana Board of Medical Examiners: Professional Licensing of Emergency Medical Technicians

## HISTORY:

1976 Montana Board of Medical Examiners receives authority to license all levels of EMT

1976 – 2004 DPHHS and Board of Medical Examiners coordinate EMT licensure activities through a memorandum of understanding

All rules/regulations and statewide protocol development approved through Montana Board of Medical Examiners

Daily processing and examinations conducted by DPHHS

2004 – present Montana Board of Medical Examiners coordinates all functions regarding the licensure of EMT's



# Montana Board of Medical Examiners: Professional Licensing of Emergency Medical Technicians

## CURRENT Activities: (since 2004)

Established web based information system

Established web based renewal system (all levels)

Established list-server system for communication

Established local practical examination system

Worked with NREMT to utilize computer based written examination system

Suggested and passed a rule change that allowed for increased scope of practice, stronger medical control and an endorsement system that allows for advanced skills to be utilized in more volunteer communities

Developed web based medical director training program that is Montana specific and electronically utilizes national medical director training program



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## CURRENT Activities: (since 2004)

Continuously conducted Lead Instructor Training Programs across the state to prepare Lead Instructors to conduct EMT training in local areas across the state

Updated all applications for licensure and made them available on the web for easy access

Updated all course applications and made them available on the web for easy access

Conducted two surveys of renewing EMT's concerning: use of the on-line system (assuring there are no barriers to using the on-line system) and why individuals did not renew licensure

Represented the Board & State at national meetings regarding EMT training/licensure to assure conformance with standards and development of educational standards



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## CURRENT Activities: (since 2004)

Updated and published statewide EMT performance protocols to conform with expanded scope of practice allowed by endorsements

Developed and published endorsement curricula on the web to assure continuity of education/practice and provide the local medical director educational tools

The Board established an ad-hoc medical director sub-committee to assist in dealing with EMT issues

The Board established 5 position papers: scope of tasks for EMT's working in other than out-of-hospital settings, continuing patient care by the EMT once the patient has reached the medical facility, medical facilities requesting assistance from the community EMS service, medication control procedures, and wilderness training for EMT's



# Montana Board of Medical Examiners: Professional Licensing of Emergency Medical Technicians

## CURRENT Activities: (since 2004)

Developed and reproduced all training documents on CD

Conducted on-site audits of examinations and courses

Allowed staff to functioned as National Registry Representative  
for advanced life support (Paramedic) practical examinations

Conducted Instructor training programs; 4 per year, following the  
DOT guidelines for instructor training

Developed a PROGRAM approval process (accreditation)  
for entities that continuously offer EMT courses

Incorporated the current complaint process for dealing with  
complaints concerning patient care and EMT's





# Montana Board of Medical Examiners: Professional Licensing of Emergency Medical Technicians

## FUTURE Activities:

Continue using the *National Scope of Practice and the EMS Educational Agenda for the Future* documents as a guideline for the education and licensing of EMT's in Montana

Continue to support local Lead Instructors by conducting additional Lead Instructor training programs as needed

Continue to provide instructor training programs including providing an instructor conference once each year

Implement a web based application process for both licensure and course/program approval



# Montana Board of Medical Examiners: Professional Licensing of Emergency Medical Technicians

## FUTURE Activities:

Continue reviewing and modifying all endorsement programs as necessary to constantly improve the availability of advanced skills to the volunteer community

Develop and support legislation to implement a State Medical Director staff position

Continue to move all EMT licensing into professional licensing structures, accountability and professional status in the medical community

Continue utilization of the Ad-Hoc medical director sub-committee to recommend and advise the Board





# Montana Board of Medical Examiners: Professional Licensing of Emergency Medical Technicians

## FUTURE Activities:

Continue to audit examinations and courses/programs

Update and revise rules and regulations as necessary to keep Montana EMT's current with national standard recommendations and structures

Continue utilizing the current complaint process for dealing with EMT's and patient care issues

Continue to attend and participate in the development and implementation of national educational and licensure standards

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## FUTURE Activities:

Develop and support changing the current legislation to remove reference to environment in which an EMT can work

Develop an ad-hoc committee of Lead Instructors to review and assist in developing educational products



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## SUMMARY:

The Montana Board of Medical Examiners and Department of Labor and Industry support the professional development of the Emergency Medical Technician as a **Medical Professional.**

In overseeing Emergency Medical Technicians' practice and performance the Board and Department are dedicated to support their continued professional development.

Emergency Medical Technicians are thus enabled to assist Montana citizens in obtaining quality health care in a reasonable manner.

# QUESTIONS??



