



# Standard Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) in Roles and Responsibilities<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 1418; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This guide establishes the minimum training standard for emergency medical technicians (basic) as it relates to their roles and responsibilities.

1.2 This guide is one of a series which together describe the minimum training standard for the emergency medical technician (basic).

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:

- F 1031 Practice for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic)<sup>2</sup>
- F 1219 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Perform Patient Primary Assessment<sup>2</sup>
- F 1220 Guide for Emergency Medical Services Systems (EMSS) Telecommunications<sup>2</sup>
- F 1253 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Perform Patient Secondary Assessment<sup>2</sup>
- F 1285 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Perform Examination Techniques<sup>2</sup>
- F 1288 Guide for Planning for and Response to a Multiple Casualty Incident<sup>2</sup>
- F 1328 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Prepare Patients for Medical Transportation<sup>2</sup>
- F 1329 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) in Basic Anatomy and Physiology<sup>2</sup>
- F 1419 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Manage Shock<sup>2</sup>
- F 1420 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Perform Patient Management Techniques<sup>2</sup>
- F 1421 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Manage Obstetrical Emergencies<sup>2</sup>

### 2.2 Other Documents:

<sup>1</sup> This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F-30 on Emergency Medical Services and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F30.02 on Personnel, Training and Education.

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<sup>2</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 13.01.

Centers for Disease Control: Recommendations for Prevention of HIV Transmission in Health-Care Settings<sup>3</sup> MMWR 1987;36 (Suppl No. 2S):3S–18S.

Centers for Disease Control: Update: Universal Precautions for Prevention of Transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Hepatitis B Virus, and Other Bloodborne Pathogens in Health-Care Settings<sup>3</sup> MMWR 1988;37 No. 24:377–382.

## 3. Terminology

### 3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *EMSS communications subsystem*—comprises those resources and arrangements for notifying the EMS system of an emergency, for mobilizing and dispatching resources, for exchanging information, for remote monitoring of vital indicators, and for transmission of treatment procedures and directions (from F 1220).

3.1.2 *management*—refers to the step(s) that constitute action taken by the emergency medical technician (basic) for a patient in need of assistance due to a real or perceived traumatic or medical condition.

3.1.3 *stress*—non-specific response of the body to any demand made upon it.

3.1.4 *triage*—the process of sorting and making priorities for emergency medical care of the sick and injured on the basis of urgency and type of condition present, number of patients and resources available in order to properly route them to medical facilities appropriately situated and equipped for their care.

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 This guide establishes the minimum national standard for training the emergency medical technician (basic) as it relates to his/her roles and responsibilities.

4.2 This guide shall be used by those who wish to identify the minimum training standard for the emergency medical technician (basic) as it relates to his/her roles and responsibilities.

4.3 This guide shall be used as the basis to revise Practice F 1031.

<sup>3</sup> Available from Epidemiology Program Office, Centers for Disease Control, Public Health Service, U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services, Atlanta, GA 30333.

4.4 Every person who is identified as an emergency medical technician (basic) shall have been trained to this standard.

4.5 This guide does not stand alone and must be used in conjunction with all referenced documents cited in Section 2.

## 5. Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 The role and responsibilities of the emergency medical technician (basic) shall be patient care which includes:

- 5.1.1 Providing scene evaluation and control,
- 5.1.2 Carefully examining the patient for signs and symptoms of illness or injuries,
- 5.1.3 Communicating with and providing emergency management for victims of sudden illnesses or injuries,
- 5.1.4 Assuring that the patient receives the available resources appropriate to his condition, for example, advanced life support, heavy rescue, specialized rescue situations, etc, in accordance with local protocol,
- 5.1.5 Careful handling of the patient in moving to transport vehicle,
- 5.1.6 Safe and efficient transport of the patient while continuously reassessing the patient and providing any appropriate continuing care,
- 5.1.7 Orderly and expeditious transfer of the patient to the medical facility,
- 5.1.8 Communication with medical facility for medical direction or to notify of patient's condition, or both.
- 5.1.9 Documenting the care provided and maintaining accurate records,
- 5.1.10 Operating and maintaining the emergency vehicle and its equipment and supplies, and
- 5.1.11 Observing all safety precautions to protect self, patient, and others in all hazardous situations.

5.2 The emergency medical technician (basic) shall be trained to perform the following functions in the event other emergency services are not available at the accident scene:

- 5.2.1 Use of basic tools and procedures to gain access to and disentangle the patient, and
- 5.2.2 Control of the accident scene.
- 5.3 Special responsibilities shall be a component of minimum training standards for the emergency medical technician (basic), such as the following:
  - 5.3.1 Professional manner,
  - 5.3.2 Appearance, and
  - 5.3.3 General conduct.

5.4 The emergency medical technician (basic) shall receive instruction in the organization of the emergency medical services system and the role of the emergency medical technician (basic) within the emergency medical services system.

5.4.1 The emergency medical technician (basic) shall be familiar with state and local EMS laws, codes, regulations and policies.

5.4.2 The emergency medical technician (basic) shall be familiar with the role of medical direction in the delivery of pre-hospital emergency medical care.

## 6. Legal Issues

6.1 The emergency medical technician (basic) shall receive instruction in the following legal issues.

- 6.1.1 *Standard of Care*—Shall include the review of rel-

evant federal, state, regional, and local customs, statutes, ordinances, case law, or administrative orders.

6.1.2 *Duty to Act*—Shall be reviewed in regard to the responsibilities relative to responding to the need for patient care according to the federal, state, regional, and local regulations, laws, or administrative orders.

6.1.3 The emergency medical technician (basic) shall have the responsibility to handle and report special situations according to the state, regional, or local laws or ordinances, as follows:

- 6.1.3.1 Child, adult, or elder abuse,
- 6.1.3.2 Injury due to criminal act,
- 6.1.3.3 Drug-related injuries,
- 6.1.3.4 Childbirth,
- 6.1.3.5 Animal bites,
- 6.1.3.6 Attempted suicides,
- 6.1.3.7 Assaults and rape,
- 6.1.3.8 Scene of a crime,
- 6.1.3.9 The deceased, and
- 6.1.3.10 Communicable disease.

6.1.4 *Patient Consent*—Shall be taught according to federal, state, regional, and local regulations, laws or ordinances and shall include the following concepts:

- 6.1.4.1 Implied consent,
- 6.1.4.2 Informed consent,
- 6.1.4.3 Actual/express consent,
- 6.1.4.4 Minor's consent,
- 6.1.4.5 Consent of the mentally ill/diminished mental capacity,
- 6.1.4.6 Patient's right to refuse treatment,
- 6.1.4.7 Use of restraint,
- 6.1.4.8 Do not resuscitate orders and living wills, and
- 6.1.4.9 Voluntary/involuntary commitment.

6.1.5 Legal liability for the emergency medical technician (basic) shall be taught according to federal, state, regional, and local statutes, laws, and ordinances and shall include the following:

- 6.1.5.1 Malpractice insurance,
- 6.1.5.2 Torts,
- 6.1.5.3 Abandonment,
- 6.1.5.4 Negligence,
- 6.1.5.5 Good samaritan laws, and
- 6.1.6 Patient confidentiality.

## 7. Certification and Licensure

7.1 Licensure, certification and recertification shall be reviewed according to national, state, regional, and/or local requirements and shall include the following:

- 7.1.1 EMT Statutes, and
- 7.1.2 Exemption from Medical Practices Act.

## 8. Stress Management/Critical Incident Stress

8.1 The occupation of an emergency medical technician (basic) is highly stressful and the minimum training shall include the identification and management of stress.

8.2 The emergency medical technician (basic) shall be taught the concept of critical incident stress, its long term consequences and how critical incident stress debriefing is used to mitigate its effects.