



Morris Minute Men EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the time commitment?

The minimum weekly commitment for all members is 12 hours; with additional 9 hour and 24 hour shift requirements throughout the year. Daytime hours are 6:00am - 6:00pm, and daytime crew members can spread out their required 12 hours throughout the week as they choose. Nighttime hours are 6:00 pm - 6:00 am, and nighttime crew members commit to one shift to complete their required 12 hours in one night. All members attend monthly meetings, training/drills, and special event standbys. If someone can't make a shift, they ask other members to fill-in or switch shifts.

What are the training requirements?

NO previous experience is required! Our members come from all walks of life; some with no medical background. Members are required to obtain and renew their CPR certification, obtain and renew their EMT certification, and complete other online training courses. All training costs are covered by the State of New Jersey's EMT Training Fund. You will need to pay for your EMT textbook when you start EMT class, and may apply for reimbursement when you successfully complete one year with the organization.

Can I volunteer just for the summer? I'm moving away to college in the fall.

No. EMT certification classes range from 1-5 months, and we require members to obtain their EMT certification within their first year of joining. We have plenty of non-local college students on our squad that meet their hourly requirements while home from college, however, if you don't feel you're capable of completing all required shifts, reapply when you're ready!

What is an EMT expected to do? Will I have to give people needles? Do I give them electric shocks?

To become an EMT you will go through a ~250-hour class to address immediate life threats, bleeding, immobilization of injuries, safe transport, perform CPR, and basic assessment of medical problems. We do not diagnose and we do not dispense a wide variety of medications. We don't give shots or start IVs.

Do I have to wear a uniform? Do I have to purchase this on my own? Are there dues? How much will this cost me?

You are required to wear a uniform - we issue you a polo shirt and jacket, as well as a voucher to purchase your own cargo pants. You will only have to purchase black boots and a wristwatch with a second hand. There are no dues! Some members choose to purchase their own equipment like stethoscopes, but this is not required. Most members use the squad-provided equipment.

Is it safe?

The safety of the responding crew is paramount. A crew member should not put themselves in any situation they feel is unsafe, and should retreat if they feel the scene has become unsafe for any reason. Neighboring police and fire departments arrive at the location to secure the scene before allowing the crew to enter or begin patient care.

Can I join if I have a disability?

Yes! Please read the Essential Functions document found on our website - this outlines what is expected of our members. If you have any concerns about meeting these expectations, just let us know.

How old do I have to be? Who is welcome?

We are a coed organization and you must be 16 years or older to apply.

Do I have to live in town to be a member? What if I just work in town?

No! You don't have to live in Morris Plains or Morris Township to join us.

Will I be expected to rush to the headquarters in the middle of the day or night whenever someone calls 911?

You are only expected to respond to calls when you are on duty. If a 911 call comes in while all on-duty crews are out, an all-call may be issued. You will be notified if there is an all-call where off-duty members may respond.

Do I have to be an EMT before I can join?

No! As soon as you are accepted as a member, you will begin responding to 911 calls with your crew. You will be accepted as a probationary member during your first year with the organization; and will observe and gradually perform tasks alongside experienced EMTs. This real-world experience will help you when you take your EMT class!

What kinds of calls will I go on?

All kinds of medical emergencies you can think of! Common dispatches are difficulty breathing, chest pains, car accidents, diabetic emergencies, seizures, strokes, falls, sports injuries, workplace injuries, dizziness/nausea, severe nosebleeds, intoxication, psychological problems, childbirth, assaults, overdoses. Some of these calls are accompanied by our neighboring fire, police, and paramedic departments.

What is there to do between calls?

The on-duty crews are assigned tasks and responsibilities by their shift leader including house chores, equipment checks, basic maintenance, and training. After all obligations are complete, many members study, watch the large-screen TV, eat, sleep, read, or socialize!

How often are the Minute Men called?

We answer about 3000 calls per year, which is about eight per day! It's typical for more than half to fall during the daytime hours.

What if I get hurt while I'm on duty?

We carry insurance for our members while on duty.

What if I'm squeamish?

Many people who think they can't handle the sight of blood, vomit, or other bodily fluids find that they are able to deal with it in the context of EMS - you'll get used to it!

How soon can I drive the ambulance?

If you are 18 years or older, and after one year of membership. Driver training can span from several months to a year.

What towns does the Morris Minute Men cover?

The Morris Minute Men provide emergency care and transport to the Borough of Morris Plains and the Township of Morris.

Can I bring a friend with me to get a tour?

Absolutely! We encourage people to bring someone with them to check us out, whether it's a friend, parent, or relative. If you are under 18 years old, a parent or legal guardian must accompany you to your tour and interviews.

Do I absolutely have to become an EMT to volunteer?

You are welcome to apply as an ambulance driver only - but almost ALL of our members are EMTs!