



Standard Practice for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic)¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1031; 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 practice covers a standard course for the training of the emergency medical technician which will prepare a person to perform those skills commonly required to render lifesaving aid at the scene of an emergency and during transportation to a definitive care facility.

1.2 It is not the intent of this practice to require that the curriculum be used exactly as presented, but only that the knowledge and skill objectives that are part of the curriculum be included in any course purporting to train an emergency medical technician. It is not the intent of this practice to limit the addition of knowledge and skill objectives as required by local conditions.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *NHTSA National Scope of Practice Model*²

2.2 *NHTSA National EMS Education Standards*²

2.3 *U.S. Department of Transportation/National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: DOT Emergency Medical Technician-Ambulance: National Standard Curriculum, Course Guide*, latest version³

DOT HS Emergency Medical Technician-Ambulance: National Standard Curriculum, Instructor's Lesson Plans, latest version.³

3. Description of the Term Specific to This Standard

3.1 *emergency medical technician (EMT) (NHTSA)*—The primary focus of the Emergency Medical Technician is to provide basic emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical system. This individual possesses the basic knowledge

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F30 on Emergency Medical Services and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F30.02 on Personnel, Training and Education.

Current edition approved Sept. 1, 2013. Published September 2013. Originally approved in 1986. Last previous edition approved in 2012 as F1031 – 00 (2012). DOI: 10.1520/F1031-13.

² Available from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, West Building, Washington, DC 20590, <http://www.nhtsa.gov>.

³ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401, <http://www.access.gpo.gov>.

and skills necessary to provide patient care and transportation. Emergency Medical Technicians function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, under medical oversight. Emergency Medical Technicians perform interventions with the basic equipment typically found on an ambulance. The Emergency Medical Technician is a link from the scene to the emergency health care system. Emergency Medical Technicians' scope of practice includes basic, non-invasive interventions to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with acute out-of-hospital medical and traumatic emergencies. Emergency care is based on assessment findings.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The purpose of this practice is to provide standardized means of providing Emergency Medical Technician training. The practice should be used by all individuals and agencies that train such persons.

4.2 Successful completion of this course of training neither constitutes nor implies certification or licensure.

4.3 This practice adopts the knowledge and skill objectives contained in the NHSTA curriculum (latest version) as the standard practice for training those persons who provide emergency medical care at the basic life support level and are known as emergency medical technicians. The actual lesson plans contained in the referenced document are recommended for use; however, each instructor may modify the order of presentation according to local needs.

4.4 This practice outlines a comprehensive course that covers most common emergencies encountered by the emergency medical technician. Emergency Medicine Technician courses that do not include all of the knowledge and skill objectives of this practice may not be referred to as meeting this standard.

5. Contents of Course

5.1 The practice for training the emergency medical technician is a course consisting of, at a minimum, the knowledge and skill objectives contained in NHSTA curriculum (latest version). The knowledge and skill objectives are listed at the beginning of each of the designated lessons contained in the document. The course shall also include the objectives listed in the In-hospital Clinical Guidelines, Appendix C, of NHSTA curriculum (latest version).

6. Course Implementation

6.1 The course shall be conducted in accordance with the regulations of the governmental authority having jurisdiction.

6.2 It is highly recommended that all courses adhere to the procedure for presentation outlined in the NHTSA curriculum (latest version).

7. Keywords

7.1 EMS; EMT; curriculum

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