



May 20, 2009

## **Emergency Medical Responder: Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What employment opportunities are available for Emergency Medical Responders?**

An Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) is an entry-level, community focused position that is ideal for people who live and work in a rural or remote area. EMRs begin their career with the BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) as on-call, part-time employees and typically work in the station where they are hired. View the list of [communities that accept applications for EMR positions](#).

### **2. What does it mean to be an on-call, part-time employee?**

Most new BCAS paramedics are hired as on-call, part-time employees. On-call, part-time work varies depending on the community, so most employees live within easy access to the ambulance station. During on-call shifts, employees are required to carry a pager at an hourly rate of \$2.00. Once a call is received, pay increases to the normal hourly paramedic rate for a minimum of 4 hours.

### **3. What agency issues licenses for EMRs?**

The Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board (EMALB) issues licenses to individuals who have successfully completed a recognized EMR training program.

### **4. As an EMR, how many shifts am I required to work?**

On-call, part-time employees are required to be available for a minimum of 8 shifts per month where a shift is normally 12 hours.

### **5. Will I be hired if I have a criminal record?**

Criminal record search results are examined on a case by case basis, with each offence reviewed by the BCAS to assess whether the offence impacts the ability of an individual to perform the role of paramedic.

### **6. Will I be hired if I have don't have a clean Driver's Abstract?**

Driver's Abstracts are reviewed on a case by case basis to assess the impact it may have on an individual's ability to perform the role of paramedic.

### **7. What type of immunization must new applicants complete prior to beginning employment as a BCAS paramedic?**

All new employees are required to obtain a Hepatitis B vaccination. Once employed, BCAS will arrange for reimbursement of prescription costs.



### **8. Can I apply for a job as an EMR in more than one Region?**

Yes, you can apply for a job as an EMR in more than one region. Simply complete one BCAS application form and submit it to the [Human Resources Office](#) in your region. On the application form you will be asked to indicate the other regions you would like to be considered for as opportunities arise. If you are interested in working in the Lower Mainland, please remember that there are only three places that accept applications for EMRs; Bella Bella, Bella Coola and Texada Island.

### **9. I would like to pursue a career as a paramedic. What agencies offer training?**

Agencies that offer training programs recognized by the Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board (EMALB) for each paramedic license level are available on the [EMALB website](#).

### **10. I am currently attending an EMR training program and plan on entering into a PCP course as soon as I graduate. Can I apply for a position with BC Ambulance Service now?**

Yes, you can apply to BCAS at the EMR license level and your resume will be considered for opportunities in [communities that accept applications for EMR positions](#).

### **11. I have an EMR license and am currently working towards obtaining my PCP license through the Justice Institute of BC. If I apply with the BC Ambulance Service now and am hired on, can I apply for a PCP position when I graduate?**

Currently, you can apply for an EMR position with the BCAS. If hired, you will begin an initial six month probation period in the location of your first job. When you obtain your PCP license, you will become classified as a PCP and can begin practicing at the PCP level at your current post. Once you have completed your initial six month probationary period in the location of your first job you will be eligible to apply for other PCP career opportunities within the Service. Please note that the six month probation period includes months spent practicing at both the EMR and PCP level.

### **12. I will graduate with my PCP license in two months, but I won't be able to apply for a Class 4 Driver's license for three months. I have an EMR license and was wondering if I can I apply to work with BC Ambulance Service as an EMR in the meantime?**

As each BCAS region has different employment needs, situations such as this are reviewed on a case by case basis. You are encouraged to contact the [Human Resources Office](#) in the Region where you would like to work and discuss the opportunities that are available.



## British Columbia Ambulance Service

### **13. What career advancement opportunities are available to EMRs?**

Employees who are hired as an EMR and pursue training as a Primary Care Paramedic (PCP) have the opportunity to apply for PCP positions.

### **14. Is it possible for a paramedic from outside of Canada to work as a paramedic in British Columbia?**

BCAS accepts applications from paramedics who hold a paramedic license in British Columbia and who are eligible to work in Canada. Information on the employment qualifications and the application process can be found on [our website](#).

Questions regarding license qualifications can be directed to the [Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board \(EMALB\)](#).

If you are interested in working only in BC, you may be eligible for the British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) program, which offers accelerated immigration for qualified skilled workers and experienced entrepreneurs who wish to settle in BC and become permanent residents of Canada. For more information contact:

BC PNP  
Economic Immigration Programs Branch  
Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development  
# 730 - 999 Canada Place  
Vancouver, BC V6C 3E1  
Canada  
Email: [PNPinfo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PNPinfo@gov.bc.ca)  
Phone: 604-775-2227  
Fax: 604-660-4092  
Web: [www.pnp.gov.bc.ca](http://www.pnp.gov.bc.ca)

### **15. Is it possible to work as a volunteer paramedic with BCAS?**

While BCAS does not have a volunteer program, those interested in pursuing a volunteer paramedic opportunity are encouraged to contact the St. John's Ambulance Service regarding their Medical First Responder program.