

Functional Job Analysis - EMT

First Responder Characteristics

The First Responder must be a person who can remain calm while working in difficult and stressful circumstances, as well as one who is capable of combining technical skills, theoretical knowledge, and good judgment to insure optimal level of fundamental emergency care to sick or injured patients while adhering to specific guidelines within the given scope of practice.

The First Responder is expected to be able to work alone but must also be a team player. Personal qualities such as the ability to "take charge" and control the situation are essential, as are the maintaining of a caring and professional attitude, controlling one's own fears, presenting a professional appearance, staying physically fit, and keeping one's skills and abilities up to date.

The First Responder must be willing to adhere to the established ongoing medical control and evaluation required for the maintenance of quality medical care. Self-confidence, a desire to work with people, emotional stability, tolerance for high stress, honesty, a pleasant demeanor, and the ability to meet the physical and intellectual requirements demanded by this position are characteristics of the competent First Responder. The First Responder also must be able to deal with adverse social situations which include responding to calls in districts known to have high crime rates. The First Responder ideally possesses an interest in working for the good of society and has a commitment to doing so.

Physical Demands

Aptitudes required for work of this nature are good physical stamina, endurance, and body condition that would not be adversely affected by having to walk, stand, lift, carry, and balance at times, more than 125 pounds. Motor coordination is necessary because over uneven terrain, the patient's, and the First Responder's well-being, as well as other workers' well-being must not be jeopardized.

Comments

Use of the telephone or radio dispatch for coordination of prompt emergency services is essential. Accurately discerning street names through map reading, and correctly distinguishing house numbers or business addresses are essential to task completion in the most expedient manner. Concisely and accurately describing orally to dispatcher and other concerned staff, one's impression of patient's condition, is critical as the First Responder works in emergency conditions where there may not be time for deliberation. The First Responder must also be able to accurately report all relevant patient data, which is generally, but not always, outlined on a prescribed form. Verbal and reasoning skills are used extensively. The ability to perform mathematical tasks is minimal, however, it does play a part in activities such as taking vital signs, making estimates of time, calculating the number of persons at scene, and counting the number of persons requiring specific care.

United States Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

First Responder: National Standard Curriculum