



## Safety Advisory

**Date:** May 28, 2013

**Subject:** Creation of Arduous Duty Line Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Positions

**Issue:** The Risk Management Committee has agreed that the creation of these new positions is in the best interest of the wildland fire community. Federal members have worked with agency Training and Qualifications staff to incorporate them into the Incident Qualification and Certification System (IQCS) as Technical Specialists.

Consideration was given to the need for these positions to maintain an Arduous Fitness level:

1. Line going emergency care providers will carry all the prescribed medical equipment and their line gear to sustain them through a work shift requiring above average endurance and superior conditioning.
2. The very purpose of providing emergency medical care to an employee in the fire environment means they may be called upon to respond on foot at a rapid pace in adverse environmental conditions. The pace of this work is set by the emergency.
3. Once on scene, the EMS resource will provide for patient care. The physical action of transporting the patient will typically be carried out by fireline resources on scene; however the physical demands of maintaining patient care may last for an extended period of time in adverse environmental conditions while carrying fireline gear.

**Required Action:** These positions were effective May 1, 2013 and are available in IQCS. Agencies using other qualification systems of record, such as the Incident Qualification System (IQS), may choose to adopt these minimum standards and incorporate them into their system of record and place on employee Incident Qualification Cards. These positions do not require completion of a position task book.

**Recommended Action:** The Arduous Duty EMT positions are new positions; however firefighters who currently meet state or National Park Service medical licensure and fire training requirements are eligible for these new qualifications. The new position competencies may be added to a responder's IQCS record when that individual meets all qualification requirements of the position. No qualifications at the trainee level should be added; the competency should only be added to individuals who currently meet all position requirements (see attached).

**Discussion/Background:** In the past when an Incident Management Team (IMT) or local unit needed an arduous duty EMT a resource order would be placed with a notation in the remarks section requesting additional qualification as a firefighter. This often led to confusion or incorrect resource order filling. These new positions allow the ordering unit to place a resource order for the actual resource needed.

**Additional Information:** Employees who currently hold existing IQCS/IQS Technical Specialist EMT qualifications (EMTB, EMTI or EMTP) may continue to take non-fireline assignments with no additional requirements. They may also conduct work on the fireline if they fulfill their agency's standards for visits to the fireline. These new

positions do not convey state or National Park Service licensing/certification at any level as an emergency medical care provider but uses state or National Park Service licensing/certification as a portion of incident response qualification criteria. Responders crossing jurisdictional boundaries should continue to use the Limited Recognition processes found on the Incident Emergency Medical Subcommittee's website (<http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/rmc/iems/index.html>).

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group Incident Business Committee (IBC) recognizes the potential for extensive use of these positions as Administratively Determined (AD) Pay Plan hires for the remainder of 2013 and has determined the need to assign an appropriate pay rate nationally rather than individual hiring units completing the exception rate process. Further guidance is forthcoming from the IBC. However, the following rates will be applied:

Position	Pay Rate
Emergency Medical Technician, Fireline (EMTF)	AD-G
Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, Fireline (AEMF)	AD-H
Paramedic, Fireline (EMPF)	AD-J

Questions regarding use of the new fireline EMT positions should be directed to your RMC representative. Questions regarding AD Pay Plan use of these positions should be directed to your IBC representative.

# **Emergency Medical Technician, Fireline\* (EMTF)**

(Position Category: ICS)

## **REQUIRED TRAINING**

State or National Park Service approved Emergency Medical Technician course

Basic Firefighter Training:

Introduction to ICS (I-100)

Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service (L-180)

Firefighter Training (S-130)

Introduction to Wildland Fire (S-190)

NIMS: An Introduction (IS-700)

Annual Fireline Safety Refresher (RT-130)\*\*

## **REQUIRED EXPERIENCE**

Current state or National Park Service license/certification as an Emergency Medical Technician (formerly EMT-Basic)\*\*\*

## **PHYSICAL FITNESS LEVEL**

Arduous

## **OTHER POSITION ASSIGNMENTS THAT WILL MAINTAIN CURRENCY**

None

## **OTHER TRAINING WHICH SUPPORTS DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**

Basic Air Operations (S-270)

Helicopter Crewmember (S-271)

Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior (S-290)

Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician

***\*Note: This position was formerly referred to as Emergency Medical Technician Basic within the industry.***

***\*\*Note: Annual Fireline Safety Refresher (RT-130) is not required for the first year; however, it is required for subsequent years.***

***\*\*\*Note: Proof of EMT currency will be managed at the local level through the home unit agency certifier or the dispatch center IQCS/IQS account manager.***

# **Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, Fireline\* (AEMF)**

(Position Category: ICS)

## **REQUIRED TRAINING**

State or National Park Service approved Advanced Emergency Medical Technician course

Basic Firefighter Training:

Introduction to ICS (I-100)

Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service (L-180)

Firefighter Training (S-130)

Introduction to Wildland Fire (S-190)

NIMS: An Introduction (IS-700)

Annual Fireline Safety Refresher (RT-130)\*\*

## **REQUIRED EXPERIENCE**

Current state or National Park Service license/certification as an Emergency Medical Technician-Advanced (formerly EMT Intermediate)\*\*\*

## **PHYSICAL FITNESS LEVEL**

Arduous

## **OTHER POSITION ASSIGNMENTS THAT WILL MAINTAIN CURRENCY**

None

## **OTHER TRAINING WHICH SUPPORTS DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**

Basic Air Operations (S-270)

Helicopter Crewmember (S-271)

Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior (S-290)

Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician

***\*Note: This position was formerly referred to as Emergency Medical Technician Intermediate within the industry.***

***\*\*Note: Annual Fireline Safety Refresher (RT-130) is not required for the first year; however, it is required for subsequent years.***

***\*\*\*Note: Proof of EMT currency will be managed at the local level through the home unit agency certifier or the dispatch center IQCS/IQS account manager.***

## **Paramedic, Fireline \*** **(EMPF)**

(Position Category: ICS)

### **REQUIRED TRAINING**

State or National Park Service approved Paramedic course

Basic Firefighter Training:

Introduction to ICS (I-100)

Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service (L-180)

Firefighter Training (S-130)

Introduction to Wildland Fire (S-190)

NIMS: An Introduction (IS-700)

Annual Fireline Safety Refresher (RT-130)\*\*

### **REQUIRED EXPERIENCE**

Current state or National Park Service license/certification as a Paramedic\*\*\*

### **PHYSICAL FITNESS LEVEL**

Arduous

### **OTHER POSITION ASSIGNMENTS THAT WILL MAINTAIN CURRENCY**

None

### **OTHER TRAINING WHICH SUPPORTS DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**

Basic Air Operations (S-270)

Helicopter Crewmember (S-271)

Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior (S-290)

Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician

Advanced Cardiac Life Support (if not required for state/agency license)

***\*Note: This position was formerly referred to as Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic within the industry.***

***\*\*Note: Annual Fireline Safety Refresher (RT-130) is not required for the first year; however, it is required for subsequent years.***

***\*\*\*Note: Proof of Paramedic currency will be managed at the local level through the home unit agency certifier or the dispatch center IQCS/IQS account manager.***