
FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

By Mattie Mendoza and Phil Lockwood

Q | My EMT-Basic certification expired, but I am almost done with EMT-Intermediate class. Should I renew my EMT-Basic certification before I submit my Initial EMT-Intermediate application?

DSHS: That depends. If your EMT-Basic certification has been expired for less than one year, you can still renew it and then submit the initial application for your EMT-Intermediate certification when you complete your course. Currently certified EMS personnel do not have to undergo the Federal FBI background check when applying for higher-level certification. If your EMT-Basic certification has been expired for more than one year, you will not be able to renew the Basic certification. Instead, you must now meet all initial requirements for the EMT-Intermediate certification, including the FBI background check. You will find a link to all of the EMS certification applications on the EMS Certification website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/certapps.shtm. If you have any questions, you can contact the EMS Certification office at (512) 834-6734.

Q | I know that the Texas Department of State Health Services sends renewal notices prior to any certification expiration date. I did not receive a notice. Why?

DSHS: The Department does regularly send recertification notices, as a courtesy. If you did not receive one, it's possible that we do not have your current address. Recently a large number of renewal notices were returned to DSHS—they were undeliverable because of incorrect addresses. If you move, please remember to fax or mail a fully completed Address/Name Change form to DSHS. You can find the form under the Forms and Resources tab on the EMS Certification website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/formsresources.shtm#EMS. If you have additional questions, call the EMS Certification office at (512) 834-6734.

Q | I received a deficiency notice that stated I must submit additional documentation in order to complete my licensed paramedic application. What is the quickest way to get the information to you?

DSHS: You may fax your corrected application, a copy of your National Registry card, out-of-state verification forms (for reciprocity applicants) or a copy of your transcripts (for licensed paramedics) to (512) 834-6714. If your application is deficient because you owe additional fees, you must mail a copy of your

application or deficiency letter and the fee to the address listed on the application or deficiency letter. For more information about renewal deficiencies, contact the EMS Certification office at (512) 834-6734.

Q | Are specific geographical service areas mandated by law or administrative code rule? In other words, do your regulations require that all areas of the state maintain an essential (or minimal) level of EMS coverage?

DSHS: No. In most cases, cities and/or counties assume the responsibility, but specific geographic coverage of EMS is not overtly mandated by the EMS Act.

Q | Are EMS personnel required to complete emergency driving training, such as the EVOC course?

DSHS: No. EMS certification focuses on the medical aspects of emergency care. The practical application of EMS by services is regulated by necessity, so to speak, in that it is up to the EMS provider to ensure that their crews are capable of a wide range of unregulated operational tasks, including driving, communicating orally and in writing, stress management, etc.