

# EMT Certification Frequently Asked Questions

## First-Time Colorado Certification/Education Information:

**Q: What is the age requirement for EMT Certification?**

A: An individual is required to be 18 years of age at time of application.

**Q: I have never been an EMT and would like to become one. How do I complete the requirements?**

A: Complete an initial EMT-Basic course conducted by a state-recognized education program, and become certified by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT).

**Q: When should I submit my fingerprint card to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI)?**

A: Fingerprint cards may be submitted at the same time as your application for certification. However, criminal background checks require 2-8 weeks for clearance, so the earlier you submit your background check request, the more promptly your certification application can be processed.

**Q: Once I submit my fingerprints, do I get my Criminal History Report?**

A: No, the Criminal History Reports are sent directly to the Emergency Medical and Trauma Services (EMTS) Section of the Department of Public Health and Environment and kept on file awaiting your application.

**Q: Is there a charge to become certified in Colorado?**

A: No. The State does not charge a fee for state certification.

**Q: Is there a charge for the Criminal History Report?**

A: Yes, \$17.50 for Colorado only, \$39.50 for Colorado/Federal.

**Q: If I have a current NREMT certificate, how do I become certified in Colorado?**

A: You must complete all Colorado application requirements and submit the application packet to the EMTS Section, Certification Program.

**Q: Does Colorado have reciprocity with any states?**

A: No. (See question below).

**Q: If I am certified in another state but am not NREMT certified, how do I become certified in Colorado?**

A: If you are certified in another state, you will be required to achieve NREMT certification by completing the written and practical examination. Upon successful NREMT certification and submission of a completed application for Colorado certification (including a fingerprint-based criminal history record check and lawful presence requirements), you are eligible to be certified in Colorado.

**Q: If I have changed my name and address, do I need to notify your office?**

A: Yes. You are required by the Rules Pertaining to Emergency Medical Services to notify the EMTS Section of any address or name change.

**Q: Which organizations' CPR cards are acceptable for certification in Colorado?**

A: American Heart Association Health Care Provider, American Red Cross CPR for the Professional Rescuer, American Safety and Health Institute CPR Pro, EMP America/Medic First Aid Basic Life Support For Professionals, HeartSmart, Inc. CPR for Medical Professionals, National Safety Council Professional Rescuer CPR Course, and Department of Defense.

**Q: If I received my education in another state but never got certified in that state, how do I become certified in Colorado?**

A: Contact the NREMT to determine whether you are eligible to sit for its examination based upon your out-of-state education. The NREMT contact information is [www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org), telephone number (614) 888-4484. Depending upon the length of time since your original course completion and the requirements of the state in which you received your EMT education, the NREMT will determine your eligibility for NREMT certification.

**Q: If I am applying from another state, what can I do to get my fingerprints processed correctly?**

A: Submit your fingerprint card to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) with a money order for \$39.50 and FBI circled in the upper right hand corner. The address for CBI can be found in the instructions that accompany the application or on CBI's website at [www.cbi.state.co.us](http://www.cbi.state.co.us).

## Renewal Information:

**Q: I am currently certified in Colorado. How do I renew my Colorado certificate?**

A: To renew your Colorado certificate, you must submit a completed application with one of three methods of meeting the education requirements:

1. Current NREMT certification:  
**OR**
2. Complete a refresher course from a Colorado recognized education program, and have your skills attested to by a Colorado recognized education program or a Medical Director;  
**OR**
3. Complete the required minimum hours of continuing education that is approved by a Colorado recognized education program, and have your skills attested to by a Colorado recognized education program or a Medical Director.

**Q: I am currently certified as a Colorado EMT. How many continuing education hours do I need to renew my certificate?**

A: Below are the current continuing education hour requirements for each level.

EMT Level	Continuing Education Hours
<b>EMT-Basic</b>	<b>36 Hours Total</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 hours- Medical</li> <li>• 12 hours- Trauma</li> <li>• 12 hours- Electives</li> </ul> <b>(CPR is considered an elective)</b>
<b>EMT-Intermediate</b>	<b>36 Hours Total</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 hours-Medical</li> <li>• 12 hours-Trauma</li> <li>• 12 hours-Selective</li> </ul> <b>(CPR and ACLS are considered electives)</b>
<b>EMT-Paramedic</b>	<b>45 Hours Total</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 hours- Medical</li> <li>• 10 hours- Trauma</li> <li>• 10 hours- Elective</li> </ul> <b>(CPR and ACLS are considered electives)</b>

As of **July 1, 2008**, the following will apply:

EMT Level	Continuing Education Hours
<b>EMT-Basic</b>	<b>36 Hours Total</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 hour - Preparatory content including scene safety, quality improvement, health and safety of EMT, or medical legal concepts</li> <li>• 3 hours –OB and pediatric patient assessment and treatment</li> <li>• 6 hours – Trauma patient assessment and treatment</li> <li>• 5 hours – Patient assessment</li> <li>• 3 hours – Airway assessment and management</li> <li>• 6 hours – Medical/behavioral emergency patient assessment and management</li> <li>• 12 hours – Electives</li> </ul> <b>(CPR is considered an elective)</b>
<b>EMT-Intermediate</b>	<b>50 Hours Total</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 hours - Airway, breathing, and cardiology assessment and treatment.</li> <li>• 4 hours - Medical patient assessment and treatment.</li> <li>• 3 hours - trauma patient assessment and treatment.</li> <li>• 8 hours - OB and pediatric patient assessment and treatment.</li> <li>• 2 hours - Operational tasks.</li> <li>• 25 hours - Electives</li> </ul> <b>(CPR and ACLS are considered electives)</b>
<b>EMT-Paramedic</b>	<b>50 Hours Total</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 hours - Airway, breathing, and cardiology assessment and treatment.</li> <li>• 4 hours - Medical patient assessment and treatment.</li> <li>• 3 hours - trauma patient assessment and treatment.</li> <li>• 8 hours - OB and pediatric patient assessment and treatment.</li> </ul>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 hours - Operational tasks.</li> <li>• 25 hours - Electives</li> </ul> <p>(CPR and ACLS are considered electives)</p> |
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**Q: Is there a grace period on expired certificates?**

A: No! Your certificate expires on the date it expires. You may not practice as an EMT after your certification expires.

**Q: My certificate expired over six months ago. What do I need to do?**

A: Complete the requirements to achieve NREMT certification. These requirements may be found at [www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org). Once this requirement has been completed, applicants must complete all other application requirements outlined for initial certification.

**Q: Are there different applications for initial certification and renewal certification?**

A: No, the application on our web site serves both initial and renewal of Colorado certification.

**Q: Are there different applications for Basic, Intermediate, or Paramedic levels?**

A: No, the application on our web site serves all Colorado EMT certification levels.

**Q: How long will it take to process my application?**

A: Depending on your submission of the criminal background check request, you should allow four to six weeks for your application to be processed by the EMTS section. All applications are processed by date received, on a first come, first serve basis. (Note: CBI criminal background checks may take four to eight weeks for processing while CBI/FBI background checks may require up to eight weeks or more for processing.)

**Q: What is the EMT certification period in Colorado?**

A: The Colorado certificate is valid for 3 years.

**Q: Are felonies and misdemeanors grounds for denial of EMT certification?**

A: Each application is reviewed on an individual basis. Please see the EMTS Section's Criminal Conviction Policy on our website at [www.coems.info](http://www.coems.info). Applicants should submit court documents for felony charges/convictions with their applications.

**Q: Which organizations' CPR cards are acceptable for certification in Colorado?**

A: American Heart Association Health Care Provider; American Red Cross CPR for the Professional Rescuer; American Safety and Health Institute CPR Pro; EMP America/Medic First Aid Basic Life Support For Professionals; HeartSmart, Inc. CPR for Medical Professionals; National Safety Council Professional Rescuer CPR Course; and Department of Defense.

**Q: Where can I find information about continuing education offerings and refresher courses?**

A: You should contact a local Colorado recognized education program to find out about education offerings. The list of Colorado recognized education programs can be found on our website at [www.coems.info](http://www.coems.info). The state does not keep track of individual course offerings.

**Q: I've heard that there have been changes to the renewal process. What are the changes?**

A: As of January 1, 2007, the motor vehicle report from the Division of Motor Vehicles is no longer required. Additionally, a practical skills exam is no longer required, but your skills will need to be attested to by a Colorado recognized education program or a medical director. On August 1, 2006, a state law became effective requiring applicants to establish lawful presence in the U.S. and we have modified our application to comply with the law's requirements. These requirements are a signed affidavit attesting to your lawful presence in the U.S. and a **notarized** photocopy of an acceptable form of identification if you are mailing in your application. If you are submitting your application in person, you will be asked to present your identification, but it does not have to be notarized.

**Q: What are considered acceptable forms of identification?**

A: The Colorado Department of Revenue lists the following as acceptable forms of identification:

- Colorado Driver's License
- Colorado State ID
- U.S. Military ID
- U.S. Military Dependent ID
- U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner card
- Native American tribal documents
- Or licenses from any of these states: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, DC, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming. If your state is not on this list, please visit the Department of Revenue's web site at [http://www.revenue.state.co.us/EDO\\_dir/wrap.asp?incl=LawfulPresenceRules](http://www.revenue.state.co.us/EDO_dir/wrap.asp?incl=LawfulPresenceRules) for more information.

## **National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians Information:**

**Q: How do I schedule an examination with the NREMT?**

A: The process for taking the NREMT examination at any level begins through a recognized Colorado EMT education center or education group. You should contact a recognized center or group to obtain the authorization necessary to sit for NREMT written or practical examinations. A listing of recognized education centers and groups is available at [www.coems.info](http://www.coems.info).

**Q: How do I keep my NREMT certification current?**

A: If you need information on how to keep your NREMT certification current, contact the NREMT's web site: [www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org) or call the NREMT at 614-888-4484.

**Q: What is the difference between NREMT certification and Colorado certification?**

A: The NREMT is a non-governmental agency whose certification is used as one of the requirements to achieve Colorado EMT certification. Having NREMT certification does not substitute for Colorado certification. Colorado certification is issued through the EMTS section and is valid for a three-year period. Colorado certification is required of all EMTs practicing in the state of Colorado.

Additional Questions should be directed to:  
Colorado Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Section  
303.692.2980  
[cdphe.emtcert@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe.emtcert@state.co.us)

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