

# What Does a Paramedic Do?

**Paramedics have lots of skills including:**

- being reliable;
- being calm;
- being brave, not easily scared;
- being able to work in tricky conditions and places.



## **What roles and responsibilities do paramedics have?**

Paramedics are responsible for helping people that are hurt or ill. If you need them, then you would ring 999, just like you would for the police or the fire service. They try to get to people that need help as quick as they possibly can. They can use lots of different medicines and machines to help people who are in trouble and keep them alive until they can get to hospital. They might need to help someone who is having trouble breathing or who has been hit by a car. Being a paramedic is not a day job. There are paramedics available at every hour of the day in case people are in trouble. There are paramedics everywhere across the country.

## **Where do they work?**

Paramedics spend most of their time on the road so that they can help people as quickly as possible. They can be found driving in ambulances, in special cars, on motorbikes and even in helicopters. They can be called to an accident anywhere at all. It might be on a beach, on the motorway or up a mountain. Paramedics have to be ready for anything. Some paramedics are especially brave as they choose to help people who are injured in war zones.



### What do paramedics wear?

Paramedics wear bright clothes that reflect light so that they can be seen in the dark. This help to keep them and others safe. They wear a uniform, just like the police, so that people can recognise and trust them.

### How do you become a paramedic?

You have to do well at school, spend time learning about medicine and practise first aid before you can become a paramedic.



# What Does a Paramedic Do?

**Paramedics need to have six key qualities.**

**They need to be:**

- brave
- reliable
- skilled
- adaptable
- intelligent
- calming



Paramedics will often be working with people who are scared and hurt so these qualities are really important to reassure them that they will be well cared for.

## **What roles and responsibilities do paramedics have?**

Paramedics are one of the emergency services. If you are in trouble, you can call 999 and request help from the police, fire service, coastguard and of course, the ambulance service. If there has been an accident or if someone is really ill, it is the responsibility of the paramedics to help them as quickly as possible, and get them safely to hospital for more treatment. They might need to help someone who has had a heart attack or help someone who is having trouble breathing. Paramedics work shifts, which means that they can help people who are in trouble whether it is day or night. Paramedics work across the country; in large cities and out in the countryside. A paramedic's job changes from day to day. They may be responsible for providing emergency care at a football match or for delivering a new born baby.

## **Where do they work?**

Paramedics are expected to work in many different places as they may be needed to splint the broken arm of a rock climber or help someone who has got into difficulty whilst surfing at the beach.



Some paramedics even choose to work in very dangerous places such as on jungle expeditions and even in war zones. Paramedics use transport that allows them to get around quickly, so that they are ready to get to the scene of emergencies. Paramedics will use motorbikes, specially-modified cars and even helicopters to attend casualties and bring them treatment.

### **What do paramedics wear?**

Paramedics wear a waterproof coat with reflective strips so they can be seen easily at night in areas with no light. They wear a uniform so it is easy for people to identify them as paramedics.

### **How do you become a paramedic?**

To become a paramedic, people have to have done well in their exams at school and have spent plenty of time studying medicine. They also need to gain further qualifications to administer drugs and treatments. They must have a full driving licence.





# What Does a Paramedic Do?

## Unusual Places

- Some paramedics choose to work in strange and even dangerous places. It is normal for people attempting to climb Mount Everest, the world's tallest mountain, to take a paramedic in case anyone is injured during the attempt.
- In Australia, paramedics work with doctors to provide emergency healthcare by flying to casualties. They have to do this as the distances between towns can be so great.
- Some paramedics even choose to travel to war zones to help people injured during conflicts. This is a very brave choice as they are sacrificing their safety to help others.



## What roles and responsibilities do paramedics have?

Paramedics are part of the emergency services, along with the police, the fire service and the coastguard. They respond to 999 calls and requests for help for other services. Their main responsibility is providing lifesaving medical treatment to people who may be injured and suffering with ill health, and transporting them to hospital. They might need to help restart someone's heart using a defibrillator or assist their breathing by using an oxygen mask. They are expected to be available 24 hours a day and must respond at high-speed across the country. They function in both urban and rural settings, though the challenges they face will be very different depending on their location. A paramedic's job can be very diverse. They may be responsible for delivering a newborn baby and attending a motorway collision in the same shift.

## Where do they work?

Paramedics can be based in ambulance stations where they wait for emergency calls to be directed to them by the 999



operators. But, more than likely, they will be on the road, ready to race to the scene of any emergency. Although paramedics are often found in ambulances, they also use other methods of transport that allow them to attend accidents as quickly as possible. Paramedics will use motorbikes, specially-modified cars and even helicopters to attend casualties and bring them treatment. They are also prepared to work in all conditions, as they may be needed to splint the broken leg of a hill climber or help someone who has got into difficulty whilst swimming at the beach.

### What do paramedics wear?

Paramedics need to be prepared for working in all weather conditions so they wear a durable, waterproof coat. It has reflective strips as they can be working at night in areas with no street lights. They wear a uniform so it is easy for people to identify them as paramedics. They may be helping people who are elderly or confused and need to be able to see quickly that they are dealing with someone they can trust.

### How do you become a paramedic?

To become a paramedic, people have to achieve high exam grades, spend time training in hospitals and study medicine. They then need to gain further qualifications to administer drugs and treatments. They also must have a full driving licence.

