



Where do I start?

To work as a Paramedic in British Columbia, you'll need to take the following steps:

- ✓ Complete the Emergency Medical Responder Program
- ✓ Complete the governments Paramedic licensing exams for EMR and get licensed
- ✓ Obtain a class 4 unrestricted BC drivers license
- ✓ Congratulations – you've started your on the way to an exciting career
- ✓ Keep moving up – the next level is the Primary Care Paramedic program

Let's explore this roadmap in depth...

The entry level qualification for a career as a Paramedic in BC is the Emergency Medical Responder. Three weeks (or 120 hours) in length, the Life Support British Columbia EMR program prepares you to challenge the provincial examinations for an EMR license, and to work successfully in British Columbia as an Emergency Medical Responder.

What kind of skills do EMR's have?

The Life Support British Columbia EMR program prepares you to:

- Perform a rescue scene evaluation and primary patient survey
- Identify and treat life threatening conditions found in the primary survey
- Manage a patients airway using oral airways, suction and bag-valve-mask device
- Perform CPR to national standards (CPR certification is included in your course)
- Treat cardiac arrest patients with an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)
- Apply oxygen when appropriate (simple face mask, non-rebreather and nasal cannula)
- Perform a secondary assessment of your patient
- Gather patient history including current medications, allergies and medical history
- Measure and record vital signs (blood pressure, pulse, respirations and oxygen levels)
- Test a patients blood glucose level
- Assess chest sounds using your stethoscope
- Assess and treat specific complaints related to:
 - Altered Level of Consciousness and Seizures
 - Breathing Problems / Shortness of Breath
 - Cardiac Complaints such as chest pain
 - Gastrointestinal / Urinary problems such as abdominal pain
 - Management of diabetic emergencies
 - Treatment of overdoses and poisoning
 - Management of suspected spinal injury patient
 - Fracture management including the application of traction (sager) splints
 - Chest Injuries
 - Head, Neck and Facial injuries including eye injuries
 - Management of trauma patients

In your EMR program you will also cover these other essential components:

- Emergency Childbirth
- Basic Neonatal Resuscitation
- Pediatric assessment and management
- Geriatric assessment and treatment
- Psychiatric Emergencies
- Working around aircraft (helicopters and fixed wing)
- Stretcher handling, lifts and transfers
- Paramedic Occupational Health and Safety
- Emergency Driving
- Inter-Hospital Transfers and common patient attachments (such as drains and IV's)

We'll teach you how to administer the following medications under protocol:

1. Nitroglycerin
2. ASA
3. Entonox (Nitrous Oxide)
4. Oral Glucose
5. Administration of IV fluids during inter-facility transports

During your Life Support BC EMR program, you will work with all of the equipment found on a modern day ambulance – you'll even get to practice in our paramedic training unit.

Program Approval and Licensing

Paramedics in British Columbia are licensed to practice by the Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board (EMA Licensing). The Board has the authority to:

- Establish training standards and to review / approve training programs
- Conduct licensing examinations
- Issue EMR licenses

In British Columbia, you cannot practice as a Paramedic unless you:

- ✓ Have completed an approved EMR program
- ✓ Have applied for a license
- ✓ Have completed the EMA Licensing Provincial examinations (written & scenario)
- ✓ Have a valid paramedic license issued by the board

Life Support British Columbia is an EMA Licensing Board approved training agency. This means that we have submitted our curriculum, program information, policies and procedures as well as other relevant information to the Board for a rigorous and extensive review process, and that we are authorized by the Board to issue certificates of completion for EMR, OFA III to EMR Bridge and FR III to EMR Bridge courses. Students must graduate from an approved course in order to apply for a license to practice as a Paramedic in BC.

- ❖ Life Support British Columbia graduates enjoys one of the highest success rates for EMA Licensing Branch evaluations in the Province. Our students continuously excel during their government board examinations.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT AUTHORIZED PROVIDERS

Life Support British Columbia holds approval from the EMA Licensing Board for the delivery of EMR, OFA III to EMR Bridge and FR III to EMR Bridge courses. Sometimes you may not directly enrol with Life Support BC for your training. We partner with other qualified groups such as post secondary institutions for the delivery of EMR training. What this means is that although our partners do not directly hold authorization from EMA Licensing to issue EMR certificates, these agencies deliver our approved program. Upon successful completion of your course, a certificate of completion is issued to you by Life Support BC. This means you can still apply to the Board for a license.

In Kelowna we work with First Aid Certified Training Systems (FACTS). Contact Dana Neufield for information on EMR programming in the Okanagan.

How is the EMR program delivered?

The EMR program is run as a series of modules. Each module introduces the student to different aspects of emergency medical care, while sequentially building towards a 'complete call'. At the start of your program your instructors will not expect you to demonstrate a full call from start to finish, but as you progress through the program, we'll work with you on developing the 'complete package'.

A significant amount of independent study and reading is required. In addition to completing assigned readings, you will also:

- Apply hands on patient care techniques
- Demonstrate skills and procedures to your instructors and examiners
- Complete skills tests and drills
- Demonstrate a mastery of EMR protocols
- Complete quizzes during class days
- Conduct a brief research presentation on a selected topic (medical or trauma)

Most of the EMR program class days are focused on developing hands on skills. For every hour of lectures, the student can expect to perform 4 hours of hands on practice using the equipment you'll find in the field.

In addition to playing the roll of the attendant, you will assist your classmates by simulating the roll of the ambulance driver (getting the stretcher ready for transport or gathering equipment for example), you'll play the role of the patient and you'll help your group by administering life like scenarios designed to put your new skills and abilities into practice.

The EMR program is broken down into the following modules:

- ✚ EMR 100 Introduction to Emergency Medical Services / Ambulance Operations
- ✚ EMR 101 / 102 Patient Assessment, Basic Diagnostics and Treatments
- ✚ EMR 103 The Medical Patient & Medical Protocols
- ✚ EMR 104 The Trauma Patient & Trauma Protocols
- ✚ EMR 105 Special Populations (Pediatrics, Geriatrics, Obstetrical / Neonates, Psychiatric)
- ✚ EMR 106 Patient Transportation / Inter Facility Transfers

Frequently Asked Questions

Tuition Fees – How much does the program cost?

EMR (Full Course)	\$1350.00 *
OFA III – EMR Bridging	\$750.00 *
FR III – EMR Bridging	\$750.00 *

(* plus the cost of textbooks, GST and PST *are not* charged on tuition amounts)

Which textbooks are required?

The two textbooks required for this course are:

Emergency Medical Responder 2nd Canadian Edition 2006 Edition \$99.75 + GST

Heart and Stroke Foundation BLS for Healthcare Providers Manual \$20.00 + GST

Life Support BC EMR Student Workbook \$27.50

Textbooks are ordered during your registration process.

What are the differences between the EMR and EMR Bridging courses? Which course is right for me?

The EMR Bridging courses (OFA III / FR III Bridge) are designed to accommodate students with a previous background in emergency medical or first aid training. You are eligible to enrol in the bridging courses if you can prove that you have a valid OFA III certificate or First Responder Level III license with AED and spinal endorsement. Simply put, the EMR program recognizes your previous skills and experience, thus the required amount of classroom practice time is reduced based on the assumption that you already possess certain important skills.

If you do not have a valid OFA III certificate or FR III license you will be required to undertake the full EMR program.

When are tuition fees due?

Your tuition fees are due with registration according to the schedule established on your program application form. Textbooks cannot be issued until you have paid for them. Payment options include:

- ✓ Visa
- ✓ MasterCard
- ✓ Personal or Corporate Cheque
- ✓ Money Order
- ✓ Cash
- ✓ Corporate purchase order for approved organizations

What is your refund policy?

If you withdraw 30 days prior to the start of your EMR course, your tuition amounts will be refunded minus a 25% administration fee and the cost of textbooks. Thirty days prior to your course, refunds are not offered however, transfer to a different course offering may be available at the discretion of the Director or Program Coordinator. We understand that illness and personal emergencies may sometimes interfere with your ability to attend your planned course, therefore, our management team carefully reviews each case to ensure that our policies are applied fairly. Most often we offer full refunds in the event of a personal emergency or illness. *** This policy may not apply to courses run by FACTS.

What are the course schedules like?

Each EMR program is offered both on a full time and a part time basis. Consult our website or course calendar for specific offerings.

- Full time courses run Monday to Friday, 0800-1630 Hours
- Part time courses run on Friday evenings from 1800-2200 and then on weekends from 0830 to 1630 Hours.

I have a group that is interested in this training, can you come to us?

YES – our EMR program is designed to be mobile and can be delivered in any region of British Columbia. We'll bring our fully stocked paramedic training unit to your community.

What are the pre-requisites to take the EMR course?

- Minimum 16 years of age
- Minimum of a grade 10 education

Do you accommodate students with disabilities?

Our program policies allow for inclusion of all people into our courses, regardless of any disability. Certain exceptions exist however. The EMR program, like all other paramedic programs is competency based and as such you will be required to demonstrate all of the skills required of a paramedic. If you cannot meet these demands, you will still be permitted to participate in the course to the best of your ability, however, graduation depends on your ability to fully perform all tasks expected of a paramedic. Your disability must not disrupt the learning environment for other students.

Are payment or financing options available to help with the cost of the program?

Financing options may be available to low income individuals. Our management team recognizes that the EMR program is a stepping stone towards a career with a high income potential, therefore each case will be reviewed individually and credit may be extended certain individuals. Each case will be assessed on its own merits.

What will I receive when I complete the EMR program?

If you are successful in completing the EMR program you will receive:

- ✓ An EMR certificate of completion
- ✓ A valid CPR 'C' (BLS for Healthcare Providers) Card
- ✓ An AED Provider Card

How much attention is paid to individual learners?

Every student is important to us, and we take a personal interest in your success. Simply put, your success is our success. In addition to regular instructional staff, every Life Support BC course has a fulltime Program Coordinator attached to it. The role of the Program Coordinator is to oversee the smooth delivery of your educational experience, by working with you to make sure you are meeting our student performance objectives, to ensure that your learning experience is enjoyable and that we are preparing you to meet the demands of working in an emergency service environment. You'll receive regular and ongoing feedback both individually and as a group. After every course session (weekends or every few days) our instructional team meets and reviews each student's individual performance.

Your program coordinator will then email you with feedback specific to your performance, and at the same time, we continuously solicit your feedback throughout the course to make sure we are meeting your expectations.

The Director of Pre-Hospital Care Programs oversees each course and keeps in close contact with instructors and program coordinators. We don't assign student numbers to anyone, because to us you're not a number... you're a paying customer and our future co-workers in the emergency services field.

Is the EMR certification valid anywhere in Canada?

Yes, but there is a process to follow. As the EMR program meets (and exceeds) the National Occupational Competency Profile for Paramedic Practitioners, and with the recent signing of the Internal Agreement on Trade, to work in elsewhere in Canada you can take the following steps:

1. Complete the Provincial Licensing Examinations for EMR in British Columbia
2. Contact the Provincial regulatory body for the province outside of BC that you want to work in. Complete the necessary Internal Agreement on Trade license transfer forms and attach a copy of your BC EMR certificate **and BC EMR license.**
3. Complete the license transfer process for that jurisdiction (this may involve another exam)
4. You can still maintain your BC license even though you may not be a resident of BC, as long as you complete BC's annual licensing requirements.

Once I'm done, how do I complete the EMR licensing process?

After you have completed your EMR program, you need to contact the Ministry of Health EMA Licensing Branch. They will have you complete an "Application for License and Identity" form.

You cannot practice as an EMR in the field without a license.

At the conclusion of your EMR program, your Program Coordinator will walk you through all the necessary steps required to complete your EMA Licensing examination process.

Provincial EMR examination sessions are held throughout the Province on a regular schedule.

For further information on EMA Licensing please visit:

www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/ema

Or call 1-250-952-1211

Does it matter which program I take or school I attend?

No. Regardless of which program or institution you attend, every student must complete the EMA Licensing examination process in order to be eligible for a license.

Do I have to attend future EMR courses to keep my license current?

No. EMR licenses are valid for a period of five years, and are renewed by completing annual patient contacts and continuing education credit requirements. At the end of every five years, you will be required to submit a \$50.00 fee to the Province in order to renew your license.

What is the goal of the EMR program?

Our goal is to equip you with the necessary skills, knowledge and abilities required to effectively manage a wide variety of pre-hospital medical and traumatic emergencies, to successfully challenge the EMA Licensing EMR exams and to work as an entry level Paramedic in British Columbia.

In addition to a career with the BC Ambulance Service, what other types of employment options exist for EMR's BC?

EMR's are in demand throughout British Columbia, not only with the Provincial ambulance service, but also in other exciting fields such as oil and gas exploration or industrial EMS. The EMR certificate / license is also an excellent resume builder for those interested in a career with Fire Service or in law enforcement. Currently, EMR's who work in the industrial or oil and gas sector for private first aid providers can expect an average wage of approx. \$250.00 per day plus living expenses.

Can an EMR work in industry, like an OFA III attendant?

Yes! The Workers Compensation Board of British Columbia recognizes the EMR license as a valid alternative to an OFA III certificate. The EMR program has certain workplace first aid components built into it, such as how to complete WCB first aid records.

How long is each program?

The EMR program is 120 Hours

OFA III to EMR Bridge is 80 Hours

FR III to EMR Bridge is 80 Hours

What sort of examinations will I encounter?

Our exam process simulates, as closely as possible, the EMA licensing provincial examinations. In order to graduate from your EMR program, you can expect to complete:

- A comprehensive written examination (multiple choice, matching, short answer)
- A medical call scenario (protocol based)
- A trauma call scenario
- Two skills station tests

If you do not pass your examinations on the first attempt, opportunities for remedial examinations are available. Instructors and Program Coordinators work with each student to provide specific feedback and coaching.

What if I want to go directly into the Primary Care Paramedic Program?

Completion of the EMR program is a necessary requirement for entry into the Primary Care Paramedic (PCP) program. The PCP program builds on the skills and abilities of the EMR.

About Life Support BC

We exist to provide education for future and current paramedics, through our continuing medical education and pre-hospital care programs.

We also serve the First Responder community through programs such as the Emergency Childbirth and Neonatal Resuscitation for First Responders program, and through our Fire Department Medical Direction program. Our clients include hospitals, health authorities, ambulance services, members of the public, private industry, nurses, doctors and allied healthcare professionals.

Courses offered to the public include CPR and AED training. We are also a Registered Training Affiliate of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC and the Yukon, offering training in Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support to healthcare professionals.

We are active throughout Western Canada. Last year we trained over 300 professionals. Our offices are based in Parksville, BC on Vancouver Island.

Our Medical Directors

Life Support BC has medical directors in British Columbia and Alberta. Our medical directors are licensed physicians with backgrounds in Emergency Medicine and Critical Care. They oversee our operations by providing medical oversight, consultation and quality assurance monitoring. Depending on the course which you are enrolled, such as ACLS, the medical director is directly present at the course, monitoring student and faculty performance. Our medical directors provide oversight to fire departments and industrial EMS agencies.

Ready to Take the Next Step?

If so, complete the application form on the next page. Once it's done, send it to Life Support BC and get ready for an exciting experience!

Have questions or need to contact us?

Phone: 1-866-554-3817

Email: info@lifesupportbc.com

Website: www.lifesupportbc.com

Application for Enrolment – Emergency Medical Responder Program

Important Dates: FALL 2008 OFFERING, PARKSVILLE CAMPUS

Application Deadline:	Friday, August 8 th 2008	Final Payment Due:	Monday, August 11 th
Pre-Study Begins:	Monday, August 11 th	Class Meeting:	Monday, August 25 th
1 st Class Day:	Monday, September 8 th	Graduation:	Friday, September 26 th

Name:	_____		
Address:	_____		
City:	_____	Prov: _____	PC: _____
Phone:	(____) _____ - _____	Cell / Pager: (____) _____ - _____	
Email:	_____		

Complete this section WCB, EI, Fire Departments or employer sponsors who have agreed to fund your course, otherwise complete the payment section below if you are paying your own tuition.			
Bill To:	_____		
Authorized By:	_____	Email:	_____
Phone:	(____) _____ - _____	PO #:	_____

Tuition:	\$1350.00	Amount due with application:	\$647.95 (\$500 deposit + textbooks)
Textbooks:	\$147.95	Final Payment Due by Aug 11 th :	\$850.00
Total:	\$1497.95	Textbooks are non-refundable.	

Read Carefully – You may withdraw from the Emergency Medical Responder program and receive a refund before Monday, August 11th 2008, minus the cost of the textbooks and a \$50 processing fee. Refunds after the pre-study period has started, which is Monday August 11th 2008, are subject to a 25% service charge plus the cost of textbooks. If you withdraw two weeks or less before the start of your course, no refund is available. **You must enclose a deposit payment of \$647.95 with this application, or your application will be returned to you.** The final tuition payment of \$850.00 is due on Monday, August 11th. If payment is not received by then your registration will be cancelled and your seat provided to a waitlisted candidate. Please sign below to indicate your acceptance of this policy.

SIGNATURE: _____

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Payment Information

Credit Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Type of Card: _____ Visa _____ MC

Name of Cardholder: _____

Signature: _____

If paying by cheque or money order, please make your payment to **Life Support British Columbia**.

T-Shirt Size: _____ Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XL

Applicant Checklist:

- _____ Completed Application Form
- _____ Signed Student Declaration enclosed *Please see next page for student declaration*
- _____ Payment Enclosed

Mail your completed application package to:

Life Support BC
PO Box 590
Errington, BC
V0R 1V0

Fax: 250-248-0237

OFFICE USE

_____ Approved & Enrolled Rejected / Reason: _____

_____ Textbooks Sent Invoice Number: _____

_____ Cheque Number UNPS Conf #: _____

Processed By: _____

Emergency Medical Responder Student Declaration

I, (Print Name) _____, have carefully read and understand the information contained in this application package.

_____ Initial I agree to fully complete the EMR student workbook, in its entirety, prior to attending the first day of class. I will make every effort to participate in the pre-study group sessions, and I agree to allow Life Support BC to release my name, email address and telephone number to other EMR students for the purpose of assembling a study group.

_____ Initial Furthermore, I also agree to abide by the tuition and refund policies as outlined on my application to enrol in the Emergency Medical Responder program.

_____ Initial In addition, I agree to abide by the policies & procedures of Life Support British Columbia, as they relate to the Emergency Medical Responder program and Life Support BC students, including Occupational Health and Safety Directives. A copy of our policy manual is available at each class location.

_____ Initial I declare that I have met the minimum application standards as outlined in this information package, and I also understand that I must come fully prepared to participate in all program and course exercises.

Name of Student: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____/_____/_____

Please enclose this form with your application package.