

**STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**



**ALASKA OFFICE OF
EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES**

GUIDE TO RECIPROCITY

For Out of State Applicants



**Office of Emergency Medical Services
Section of Rural and Community Health Systems
Division of Public Health
Updated: January 2025**

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Alaska EMS General Reciprocity and Scope of Practice Information

This guide provides essential information for out-of-state applicants seeking EMS licensure in Alaska, focusing primarily on EMTs and Paramedics. It also includes an overview of the 2019 Alaska EMS Scope of Practice updates and how they apply to reciprocity applicants.

In 2019, Alaska adopted national EMS Scope of Practice updates to address the unique needs of its rural and super-rural communities. These updates expanded the scope of practice for several EMS licensure levels. However, this has occasionally led to confusion for out-of-state applicants seeking to transition to Alaska EMS licensure. This guide will clarify the requirements and processes.

Out-of-State EMT/EMT-1/EMT-B Applicants

- For initial licensure, the Alaska-specific, two-part 2019 Scope of Practice transition program is **not required**.
- However, applicants must complete the transition program and provide proof of completion when applying for **relicensure**.
- Instructions for completing this process are available on the Alaska Department of Health Learning Management System (LMS), detailed later in this guide.
- The transition consists of:
 - **Didactic Training**: This can be completed at any time before relicensure.
 - **Skill Checks**: These require a credentialed EMS educator with the appropriate scope of practice for the skills being tested.

Service-Specific Scope of Practice Transition Training Requirements

- Some EMS services in Alaska may require scope of practice transition training or proof of current skills as part of their hiring criteria.
- Note: The Alaska OEMS does not oversee or participate in individual hiring processes.

National Registry Advanced EMTs (NR AEMTs)

- Most out-of-state AEMTs will initially be certified at the **Alaska EMT-2** level.
- To achieve **Alaska AEMT** certification, applicants must complete the NR AEMT-to-Alaska AEMT “Bridge Course.”

- Alaska AEMTs have expanded scope of practice, including additional medications and skills not covered in the National Registry.

Key Points for AEMTs with Current NREMT Credentials:

- Prerequisites for the Alaska AEMT course, such as patient reports, IV administration, and advanced airways, are waived.
 - The EMT-2 option was originally developed for the federal wildland fire community to streamline seasonal EMS licensure without extra training or testing, while still offering an ALS-level license.
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EMS Certification and Licensure Levels in Alaska

Alaska offers five EMS clinician licensure levels, each with unique training and skills, as well as one first responder certification level.

1. Emergency Trauma Technician (ETT)

The Emergency Trauma Technician (ETT) program is a 40-hour training course focused on basic emergency medical care, roughly equivalent to the National Registry Emergency Medical Responder (NREMT) level. Originally developed for logging camps in Southeast Alaska, the ETT program has expanded statewide and is now available through certified instructors.

While the Alaska Office of Emergency Medical Services (AK OEMS) does not oversee ETT as a first-responder certification, it does credential ETT instructors. The Southeastern Region EMS Council (SEREMSC) in Sitka, AK, oversees the ETT program. ETT certification is provided by SEREMSC, not the AK OEMS. For inquiries about EMR to ETT reciprocity, please contact SEREMSC.

2. Emergency Medical Technician-I (EMT-1)

The EMT-1 level aligns with the 2019 National EMS Scope of Practice but adds supraglottic airway device use. EMT-1s provide Basic Life Support (BLS), including splinting, hemorrhage control, oxygen therapy, suction, CPR, and use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs). Mastery of these skills is essential for advancing to higher EMS levels.

An EMT-1 may also assist patients with their own epinephrine auto-injectors, nitroglycerin, or bronchodilator inhalers, under physician authorization. The EMT-1 course typically spans 140-160 hours, and a valid CPR certification is required for licensure.

3. Emergency Medical Technician-II (EMT-2)

The EMT-2 level exceeds the 2019 National EMS Scope of Practice and is based on the former NREMT Intermediate programs. EMT-2 training, lasting 50-80 hours, includes skills such as initiating intravenous (IV) lines, administering IV fluids, and delivering specific medications.

To enter the EMT-2 program, applicants must have ten patient contacts and reports at the EMT-1 level. Licensure also requires operating under a department-approved physician medical director, licensed in Alaska. EMT-2 candidates from other states can transition through AK EMT-II or NR AEMT to AK AEMT bridge courses.

4. Emergency Medical Technician-III (EMT-3)

The EMT-3 program builds upon EMT-2 skills by introducing advanced cardiac care, including the administration of medications like morphine, lidocaine, atropine, epinephrine, and ondansetron. The EMT-3 program requires 50-80 hours of training and qualification through ten patient contacts and reports, ten venipunctures, and two IV push medication administrations as an EMT-2.

Licensure requires sponsorship from an Alaska-licensed physician medical director. Note that there is no national equivalent for the Alaska EMT-3 level.

5. Alaska Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AK-AEMT)

The AK-AEMT program builds on the NREMT AEMT curriculum and further expands on advanced skills, including the administration of medications such as adenosine, ketamine, magnesium sulfate, and benzodiazepines. The program lasts 160-250 hours, with applicants required to hold current NREMT-EMT or Alaska EMT-1 credentials.

Bridge courses are available for EMT-II, EMT-III, and NREMT AEMT clinicians. Applicants must document ten patient contacts and reports, ten venipunctures, two IV push medication administrations, and two advanced airway insertions as an EMT-II or EMT-III to qualify for entry. Like the EMT-II and EMT-III levels, AK-AEMT licensure requires sponsorship from an Alaska-licensed physician medical director.

Note: NR AEMTs cannot gain direct reciprocity to AK-AEMT without completing additional training and testing.

6. Paramedic

Since 2022, paramedics in Alaska are licensed by the Alaska Department of Health. Paramedic training programs must be accredited by the Committee on Accreditation for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) or the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CAAHEP) to qualify for licensure.

Paramedics work under the direct or indirect supervision of a physician, following standing orders and protocols. Unlike EMTs, paramedics do not have "expanded scope

of practice" regulations; instead, their scope is determined by the service medical director, provided certain conditions are met:

- The paramedic is listed on the service roster or individually sponsored by an Alaska-licensed physician.
- The medical director has verified the paramedic's training for required procedures and medications.
- Signed protocols and standing orders have been established, specifying approved procedures and medications.

Paramedics are primarily based in Alaska's more populous areas, including Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla, Fairbanks, Utqiagvik, Kenai, Soldotna, Nikiski, Juneau, Sitka, and Ketchikan. In some areas, they provide all pre-hospital emergency care, while in others, they may serve as supervisors or EMS directors.

Remote duty paramedics are also employed widely across industries such as oil and gas, fisheries, scientific research stations, wildland fire operations, and media productions. Alaska EMS is also expanding into mobile integrated healthcare and community paramedicine, though there is currently no specific state licensure for Community Paramedicine in Alaska.

EMS Organization in Alaska

Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) – General Overview

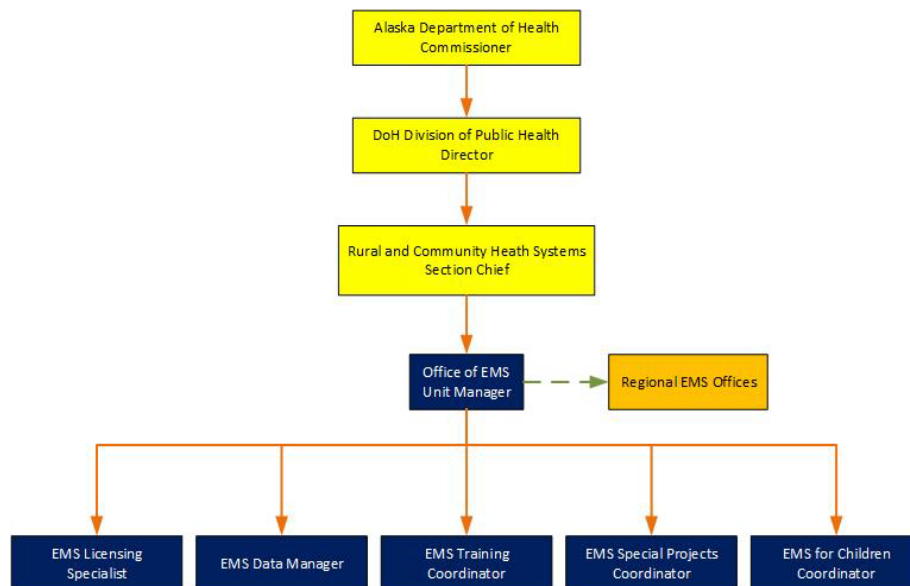
Before January 1, 2022, emergency medical services (EMS) in Alaska were managed by two separate departments:

- **EMTs** were overseen by the Department of Health and Social Services.
- **Paramedics** were regulated by the State Medical Board within the Department of Commerce and Economic Development.

This division resulted in inconsistencies in regulation and training, often creating confusion, particularly for individuals from out of state who were seeking to serve in Alaska's EMS system.

However, **as of January 1, 2022**, both EMTs and paramedics are licensed under the **Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS)**. OEMS is a unit within the **Section of Rural and Community Health Systems**, which operates under the **Division of Public Health** in the **Alaska Department of Health**.

Below is a general organizational chart outlining the structure of the Alaska Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS):



AK OEMS Reciprocity – Contact Information

For assistance with the reciprocity process, two key specialists at AK OEMS can help with specific inquiries:

- **EMS Certifications & Licensing Specialist**
For questions related to licensure, relicensure, and EMS public portal inquiries.
[\[Email Contact Link\]](#)
- **EMS Training Coordinator**
For questions about specific training requirements and continuing education.
[\[Email Contact Link\]](#)

EMS Regions and Training in Alaska

Introduction to EMS Regions in Alaska

Alaska is divided into seven EMS Regional Councils, which are either non-profit organizations or Alaska Native Health Corporations. These regions consist of:

- **Three non-profit organizations** (established in the late 1970s)
- **Three tribal health corporations**
- **One borough**

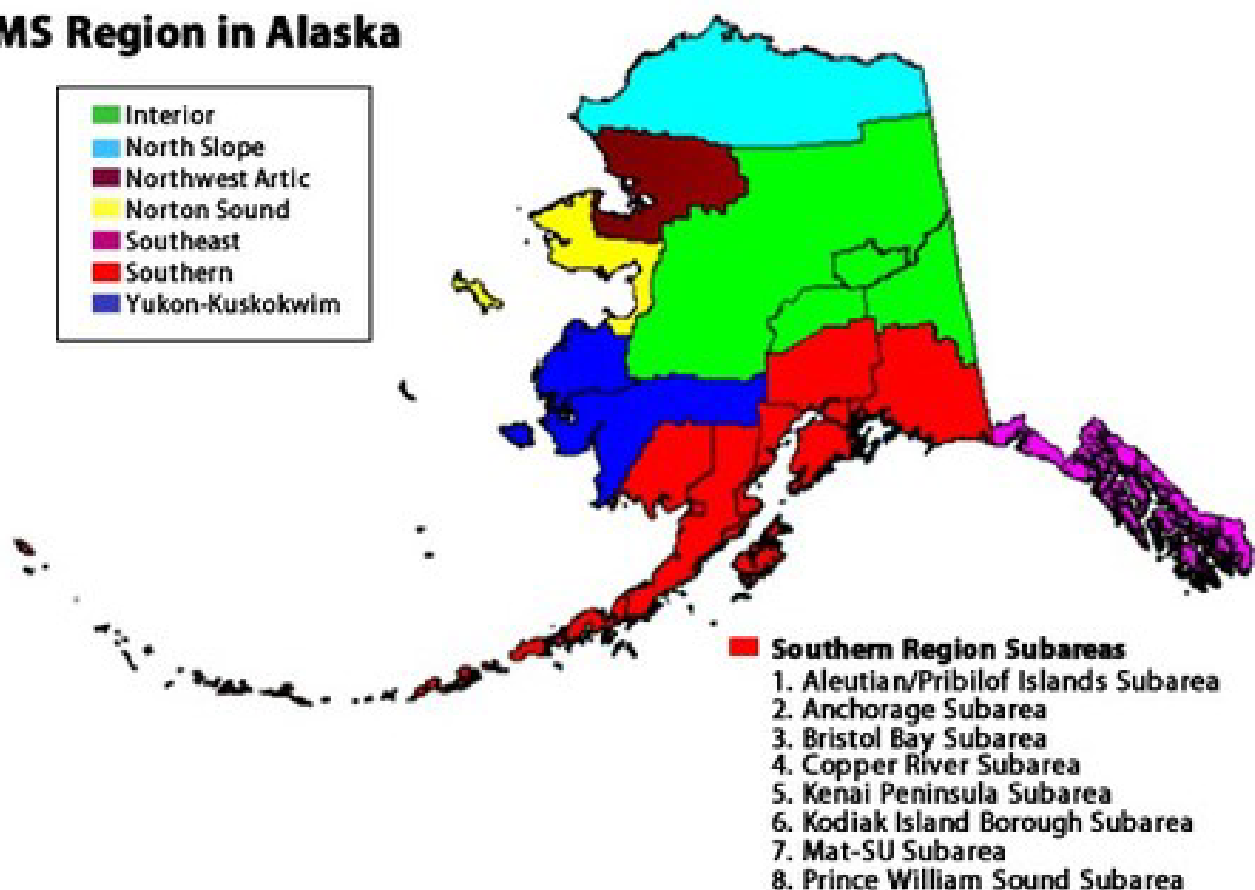
The non-profit councils receive significant funding from the Office of EMS (OEMS), while Native Health Corporations may choose to self-fund annually and can opt out of state grant funding. Regardless of funding structure, all these groups work closely with OEMS, EMS stakeholders, and Alaska EMS standing committees, including:

- Medical Direction
- EMS Training
- EMS for Children

These diverse groups collaborate to build a comprehensive EMS system across the state. The EMS regions serve as vital resources for EMS clinicians, instructors, and organizations within their areas. Their responsibilities include administering State Certification cognitive exams and providing timely information related to EMS in training. Training efforts are coordinated between OEMS and the seven regional councils.

Below is a map of the regions along with contact information for each council.

EMS Region in Alaska



Contact Information for Regional EMS Offices:

Region / Web Links	Address	Phone	Fax
<u>Interior Region</u>	Interior Region EMS Council, Inc. 2503 18th Ave. Fairbanks, AK 99709	(907) 456-3978	(907) 456-3970
<u>North Slope</u>	North Slope Borough EMS P.O. Box 69 Barrow, AK 99723	(907) 852-2611	N/A
<u>Northwest Arctic</u>	Maniilaq Association EMS Programs P.O. Box 256 Kotzebue, AK 99752	(907) 442-7595	N/A
<u>Norton Sound</u>	Norton Sound Health Corp. EMS Program 1000 Greg Kruschek Ave. P.O. Box 966 Nome, AK 99762	(907) 443-3306	(907) 443-3731
<u>Southeast Region</u>	Southeast Region Emergency Medical Services Council 100 Clothilde Bahovec Way Sitka, AK 99835	(907) 747-8005	(907) 747-1406
<u>Southern Region</u>	Southern Region EMS Council 6130 Tuttle Place, Suite B Anchorage, AK 99507-7102	(907) 562-6449	(907) 562-9893
<u>Yukon-Kuskokwim</u>	Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp. Box 528 Bethel, AK 99559	(907) 543-6420	N/A

EMS Regional Services in Alaska

The EMS regions in Alaska offer a wide range of services to support EMS operations across the state, including:

- Administering EMS grants for the region and its sub-regions
- Overseeing regional standing orders
- Coordinating training across various EMS disciplines
- Managing training for instructors and instructor-coordinators
- Providing support for EMS instructors

The **Southeast Region EMS Council** in Sitka oversees the **Alaska Emergency Trauma Technician (ETT)** program and certification of ETT first responders. The **Alaska Office of EMS (AK OEMS)** provides oversight for ETT instructor training and licensure.

General EMS Training in Alaska

Alaska EMS Licensing Management System (LMS) - The Public Portal

The Alaska EMS Public Portal allows you to search for upcoming EMS courses, providing details such as training dates, instructors, and syllabi. Relicensure courses typically appear toward the end of September each year. Courses are available year-round through both private entities and certified services.

You can access the Public Portal and register your personal EMS account for licensure [here](AK EMS Public Portal Link).

Note: The Public Portal is also where you register for reciprocity licensure.

Alaska EMS Learning Management System (LMS) - The Moodle Site

For required training, such as the “[2019 Scope of Practice](#)” transition for EMTs or opioid training for Paramedics, as well as for voluntary Continuing Medical Education (CME) accrual, visit the LMS [here](DoH LMS Main Page Link).

Note: The "Moodle Site" requires a separate account registration from the Public Portal. Once registered, search for "**AK EMS Opioid**" in the "Search Courses" bar to access the two-hour training. After completion, download your certificate for inclusion with your application. For other training or CME, search for "**AK EMS**" to find all AK OEMS CME courses.

U.S. DOT Federal Highway Administration Mandatory Training for Initial Licensure

The **AK OEMS** requires the **4-hour online "Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Course"** for initial licensure. This will also be required for first relicensure if reciprocity was granted prior to the updated document.

You can complete this training ahead of time. For more information, refer to the AK OEMS Policy Letter on the training requirement [here](#).

Other options for completing the TIM Responder training include:

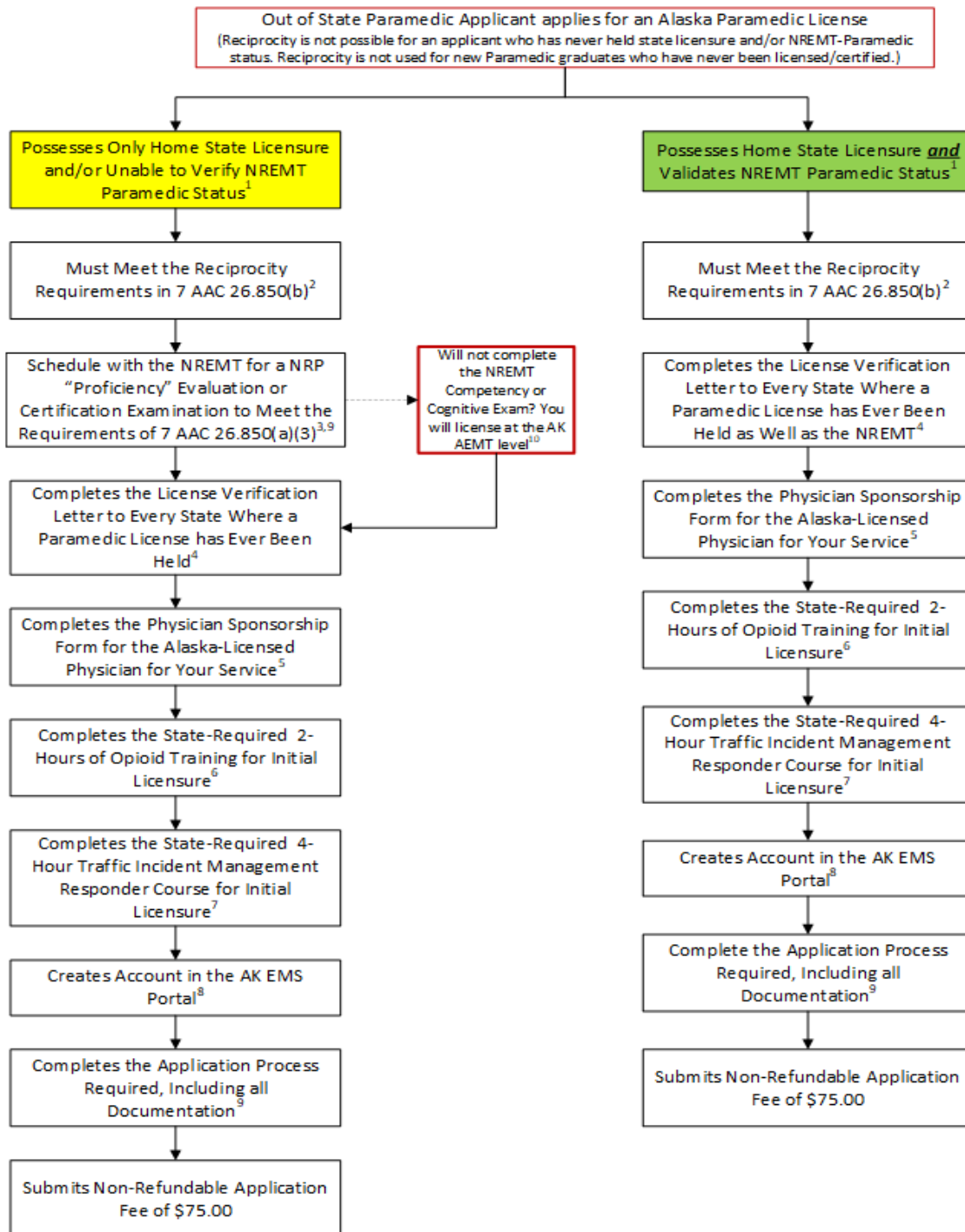
- Prior FHA-approved course completion with a verifiable certificate
- In-person instructor-led course with certificate

- Free online commercial TIM course via the Responder Safety Learning Network:
 - A **10-module online course** with skills challenge exams for each module.
 - [Responder Safety Learning Network TIM Course](#)

Please note that the federal TIM course website for student course registration does not allow for P.O. Box addresses. If your residence or your service does not have a street address either, an Alaska work-around is to register your address as: “[1234 \(town name\) Road, \(town you live in\), AK \(zip code\)](#)”. Nothing will be mailed to you. The certificate is produced as soon as you complete online training.

Paramedic Reciprocity Process and Detailed Footnotes:

Paramedic Licensure Flowchart for Reciprocity



NOTE: The Office of EMS will, in its discretion, require an applicant to provide additional documentation necessary to verify the applicant's education or experience.

See next page for footnotes

Paramedic Process Detailed Footnotes

1. Home State Paramedic License and NREMT Paramedic Status

Under [7 AAC 26.850\(a\)\(3\)](#), applicants must have passed the NREMT NRP assessment process for reciprocity candidates, regardless of whether they hold a verifiable NREMT paramedic status.

2. Alaska Reciprocity Requirements

For detailed information, please refer to the Alaska State Administrative Code: [7 AAC 26.850](#).

3. NREMT “Cognitive Examination”

According to [7 AAC 26.850\(a\)\(3\)](#), the AK OEMS recognizes current or prior NREMT EMT-P or NRP certification as meeting regulatory requirements.

If an Applicant Does Not Desire NREMT NRP Certification:

- If prior NREMT certification cannot be verified and the applicant does not wish to incur the extra cost for NREMT NRP certification, they must complete the NREMT “Proficiency Evaluation”.
- The applicant must submit the “certificate of completion” for the competency exam from NREMT with their application documents.
 - For more information on the Proficiency Evaluation, visit the: [NREMT Proficiency Evaluation Quick Tips](#) document.

If an Applicant Desires NREMT NRP Certification:

- If prior NREMT status cannot be verified and the applicant wishes to pursue NREMT NRP certification, they must complete the NREMT “Certification Examination” and submit their NREMT NRP certification credentials with the application.
 - For details on the NREMT Certification Examination, visit the: [How to Apply for a Certification Examination](#) web page at the NREMT.

Note:

The Competency and Cognitive Exams are essentially the same test but represent different certification pathways. The exam fee is the same for both, but additional costs apply for the certification pathway.

4. License Verification Form

For verification of any state license or NREMT registration previously held, visit: [EMS Provider Verification Form](#).

5. State of Alaska Physician Sponsorship Form

This form is required for both initial and reciprocity applicants: [Paramedic Medical Sponsorship Form](#).

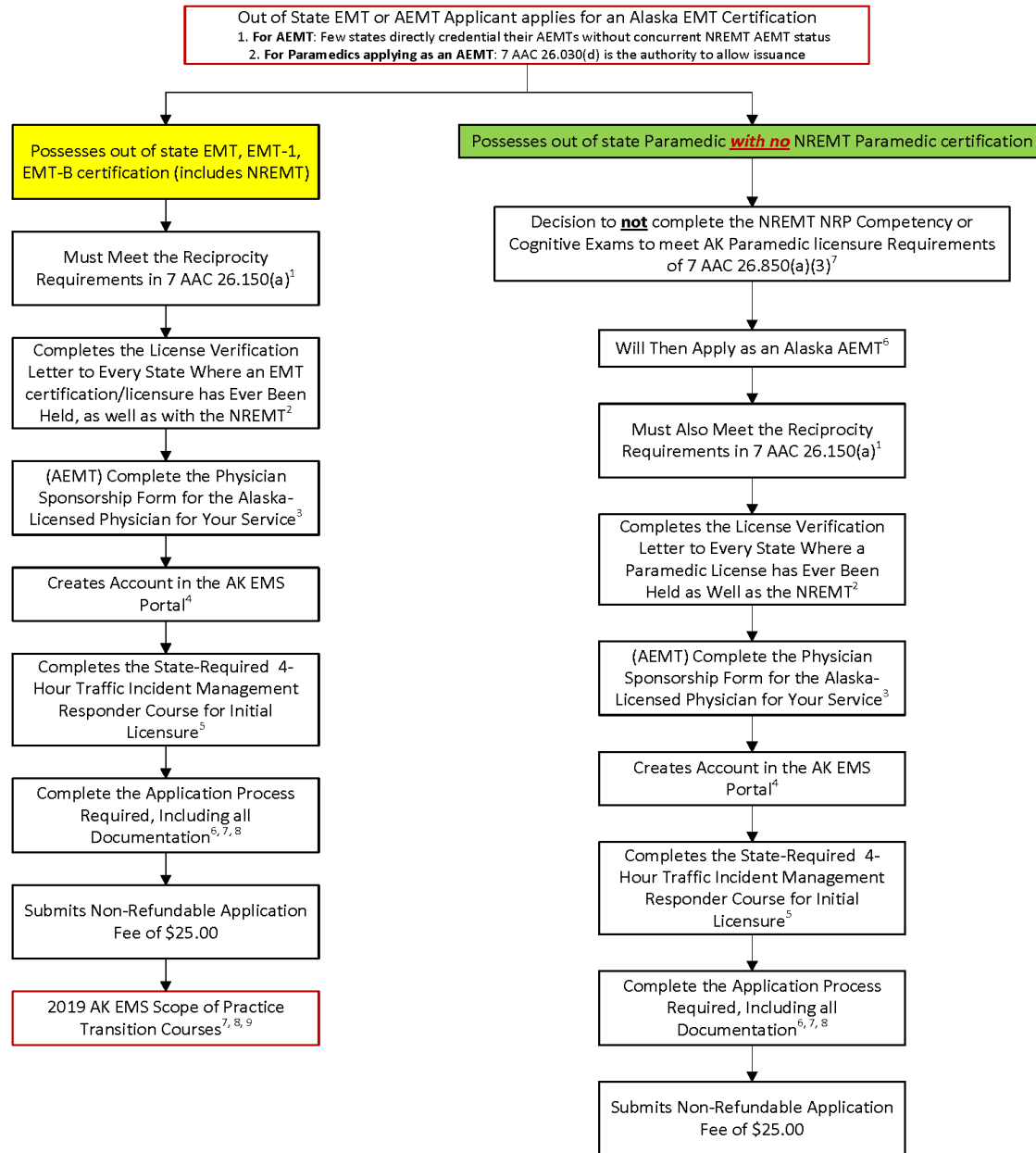
6. AK Department of Health Learning Management System (LMS) Homepage

To create an account:

- Visit: [Create Account](#).
 - After logging in, click "Search Courses" and enter "EMS."
 - Scroll to find and select "*AK EMS Opioid Training Required for Initial Licensure (and CME Course)*."
 - Complete the training and download the certificate for inclusion with your paramedic application.
- 7. US DOT/FHA Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Course**
This course is a requirement for initial licensure.
- Provide proof of prior completion, or
 - Complete the course online here: [TIM Responder Course](#).
- 8. AK EMS Public Portal**
Create an account to manage your EMS licensing and reciprocity application:
- Visit: [Public Portal Login Page](#).
- 9. Completing the Online Application**
- Log in to the portal and select "View My Applications."
 - For Paramedics, select "Paramedic" (not Reciprocity).
 - If asked, select your agency (e.g., Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Medic Program).
 - If unsure about your agency, contact your EMS Coordinator directly.
 - Save your application by selecting "Continue" and finish later if needed.
 - Upload all required documentation (NREMT cards, CPR card, opioid training certificate, etc.).
 - After reviewing your application, click "Checkout" to pay the application fee.
 - Once you receive your license, inform your agency EMS Coordinator.
- 10. If You Have No Verifiable NRP Status, but have a Paramedic License from another state and Do Not Wish to Complete the NREMT Competency or Cognitive Examinations:**
- You must apply for AK AEMT licensure instead.
 - This is a common pathway for seasonal mutual aid Federal Fire Paramedics who opt not to complete the NREMT exams.
 - Use the EMT licensure reciprocity pathway, not the paramedic reciprocity pathway.
-

EMT Reciprocity Process and Detailed Footnotes:

EMT Licensure Flowchart for Reciprocity:



NOTE: The Office of EMS will, in its discretion, require an applicant to provide additional documentation necessary to verify the applicant's education or experience.

See next page for footnotes

EMT Process Detailed Footnotes

1. **AK EMT Reciprocity Weblinks:**
 - a. [7 AAC 26.150](#)
2. **License Verification Form** for state license and/or NREMT registration ever held:
 - a. [AK EMS Provider Verification Form](#)
3. **State of Alaska Physician Sponsorship Form** for advanced initial and reciprocity applicants (not required for AK EMT-1 licensure):
 - a. [EMT-2 | EMT-3 | AEMT Medical Sponsorship Form](#)
4. **Create Your Account in the AK EMS Licensing Public Portal:**
 - a. [Public Portal Login Page](#)
5. **AK OEMS Requirement for Completion of the US DOT/FHA Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Course:**
 - a. [TIM Responder Course Registration Page](#)
6. **Complete Your Online Application** following these instructions:
 - a. Log in and select "View My Applications"
 - b. For EMTs or paramedics credentialed at an EMT level in Alaska, select **Reciprocity** (**DO NOT** select **Paramedic**)
 - c. If asked to select an agency, choose your agency:
 1. Example: Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Medic Program (6270)
 2. If unsure, contact your agency EMS Coordinator directly.
 - d. You may save your progress and select **Continue** under **Applications** to complete later.
 - e. Upload any required documentation (e.g., NREMT cards, CPR card, etc.).
 - f. Once completed, choose **Checkout** under **Applications** to pay the fee.
 - g. After receiving your license, submit the information to your agency EMS Coordinator.
7. **PARAMEDICS ONLY:**

If you do not have verifiable NREMT status and do not plan to complete the NREMT Proficiency Evaluation or Certification Examination, apply for AK AEMT licensure instead:

 - a. This is a common pathway for seasonal mutual aid AK Fire Medics who do not want to complete the NREMT Assessment Exam.
 - b. **Remember:** Use the **EMT** licensure reciprocity pathway, not the **Paramedic** application.
 - c. **For EMT Reciprocity Applicants:** AK EMS 2019 Scope of Practice Transition Courses are required. These may be completed prior to licensure, but upon your first AK relicensure cycle, you cannot recertify without completing the transition. Be aware that your medical director may require the full transition upon hire.
8. **AK Department of Health Learning Management System (LMS) (the "Moodle Site"):**
 - a. [Create a Moodle Account Link](#)
 - b. Create an account by clicking **Login** and following the account creation instructions.

- c. Search for "EMS" under **Search Courses**.
 - d. Scroll down to find and click the appropriate transition course to begin Phase 1 didactic training:
 - e. **EMT-1**: "AK EMS EMT-1 2019 Scope of Practice Transition"
 - f. **EMT-2**: Both **EMT-1** and "AK EMS EMT-2 2019 Scope of Practice Transition"
 - g. **EMT-3**: Both **EMT-1** and **EMT-2**, plus "AK EMS EMT-3 2019 Scope of Practice Transition"
 - h. **AEMT**: No online transition course for AEMT.
 - 1. Complete the in-person NREMT AEMT to AK AEMT transition course through a credentialed AK EMS educator or regional EMS office.
 - i. Retrieve the course completion certificate for inclusion in your AK EMT relicensure application.
 - j. Skills checkoffs are required for each EMS level. These may be done by appointment at regional EMS councils, local services, or by a credentialed home-state EMS educator.
9. **For AEMT Reciprocity Applicants:**
- If an AEMT applicant does not complete the full NREMT to AK AEMT transition course, they will be credentialed as an Alaska EMT-2. The applicant may later complete a transition course and apply for AK AEMT credentials at any time.
-

EMS Licensure Application Equivalencies

Use the table below to determine the proper EMS level of licensure for your reciprocity application:

- You may apply for an Alaska EMT level that is below your state, territory, or NREMT level.
 - (Example: An NREMT-Paramedic may apply for reciprocity as an AK AEMT or below.)

State, Territory, or NREMT Level	Alaska State EMS Level
EMT, EMT-1, EMT-Basic	EMT-1
EMT Advanced, Advanced EMT, AEMT	EMT-2 (or AK AEMT w/transition)
Paramedic, NREMT-NRP	*AK AEMT or Paramedic

A person certified or licensed in another state or territory as an EMT-1 or equivalent, but whose training does not meet the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards (2009) and the National EMS Scope of Practice Model (2019), will be issued an EMT-1 certificate valid until December 31 of the year of application. After that, they must complete a department-approved refresher training program and apply for relicensure to practice as an EMT-1.

Expiration Dates

The expiration date for your Alaska EMS license will depend on the credentials provided in your application and will fit within Alaska's expiration cycles (see chart below). The expiration date cannot be more than 2 years from the date of approval, or the expiration date of the credential used to obtain reciprocity.

- It is recommended that you use a licensure with at least 6 months remaining before its expiration when submitting your reciprocity application.

AK EMT Level	Expiration Date
EMT-1	December 31 st , every 2 years
EMT-2 and EMT-3	March 31 st , every 2 years
Paramedic, NREMT-NRP	March 31 st , every 2 years

Examples:

- An NREMT-EMT with an expiration date of 3/31/2024 (or 2025) will receive an Alaska EMT-1 expiration date of 12/31/2024 (or 2025).
 - An NREMT-AEMT or NREMT-NRP with an expiration date of 3/31/2024 (or 2025) will receive an expiration date of 3/31/2024 (or 2025) for their advanced AK EMS licensure.
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Mutual Aid Implications for Reciprocity

AK EMS Mutual Aid Regulation [7 AAC 26.150](#) (d-f)

When providing mutual aid, and when treating and transporting a patient to or within Alaska, a person licensed or certified in another state, territory, or nation as an EMT, Paramedic, or other emergency medical clinician, may provide care consistent with the scope of practice in their state, territory, or nation of origin, as long as medical direction is provided by a physician for advanced life support procedures and the care is not prohibited by the laws of the state, territory, or nation of origin.

(OEMS NOTE: This provision allows for patient transfers by non-Alaska-based aeromedical services for out-of-state transfers or to deliver patients back to Alaska after care.)

The department may issue an EMT-1, EMT-2, EMT-3, AK AEMT, or Paramedic license to a person living outside Alaska, if they will provide care under a mutual aid agreement with an emergency medical service certified under [AS 18.08](#) and this chapter.

- The applicant must meet the requirements of [7 AAC 26.030](#), except that a person providing advanced life support may be under the sponsorship of a physician licensed in another state, territory, or nation who agrees to fulfill the requirements outlined in [7 AAC 26.640](#).

(OEMS NOTE: This provision also allows out-of-state prehospital clinicians to provide emergent care in Alaska during a declared state of emergency or disaster.)