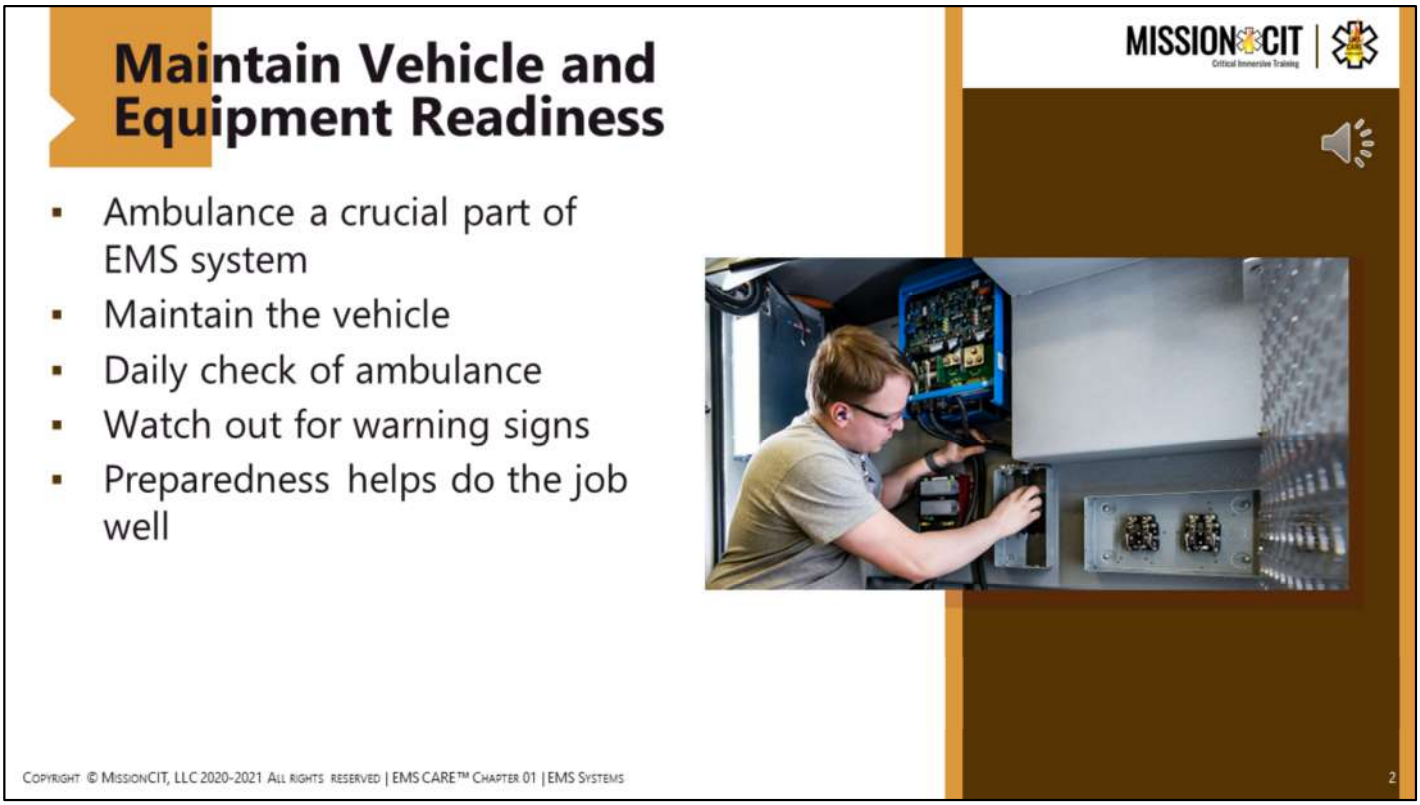



Thank you Justin! Welcome to this lesson where we talk about roles and responsibilities of EMS Personnel. EMTs and paramedics provide essential care for patients in emergency situations and are frequently able to reduce patient morbidity and mortality. As described earlier, EMS personnel have different levels of training and qualifications.




An EMS worker's duties vary depending on his or her level of certification but usually include performing basic physical exams, assessing patients' trauma levels, and administering oxygen. More advanced EMS workers insert IVs, intubate victims, and use cardiac monitors and manual defibrillators. EMS workers also may help create disaster preparedness plans.

The ambulance is a crucial part of the EMS system:

- Vehicle should be safe, clean, and comforting environment
- High priority for EMT to learn to safely operate ambulance
- EMT must know laws, regulations, and service policies of operating vehicle

Maintaining the vehicle: The crew members are responsible for ensuring:

- Unit is capable of responding
- Proper equipment and supplies are available

A daily check of the ambulance should ensure that it can:

- Start
- Steer

- Stop, and
- Stay running

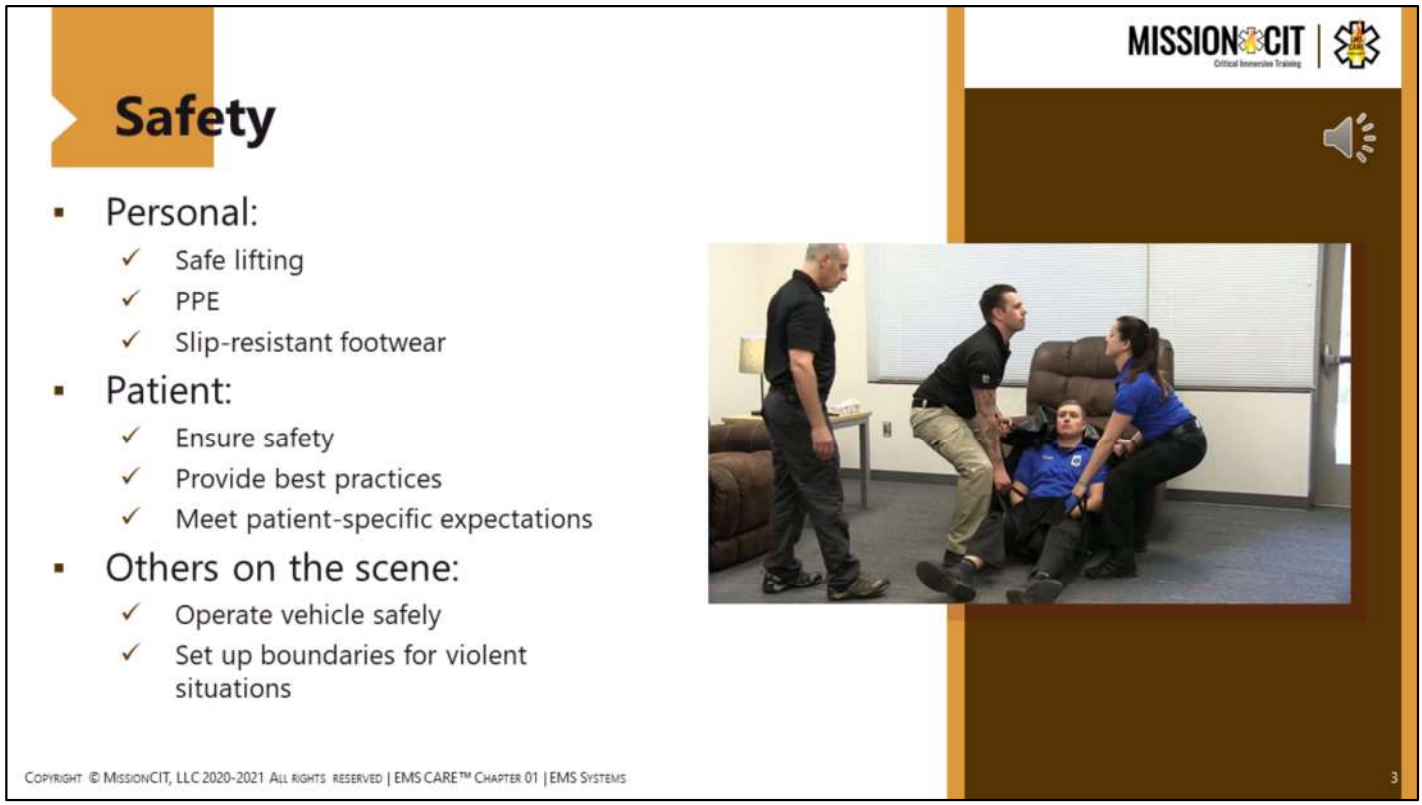
Here are some warning signs you must watch out for:

- Belt noise
- Break fade
- Brake pull
- Drift
- Steering pull

Equipment readiness:

- Pulsating brake
- Steering play
- Tire squeal
- Wheel bounce, and
- Wheel wobble

Preparedness helps to do a job well: As an EMS provider, you must be able to respond to any scene. For eg. Specialized vehicles are required for certain environments.




In emergency situations, you must focus on not only keeping your patients and bystanders safe but also protecting yourselves from injuries.

Personal:

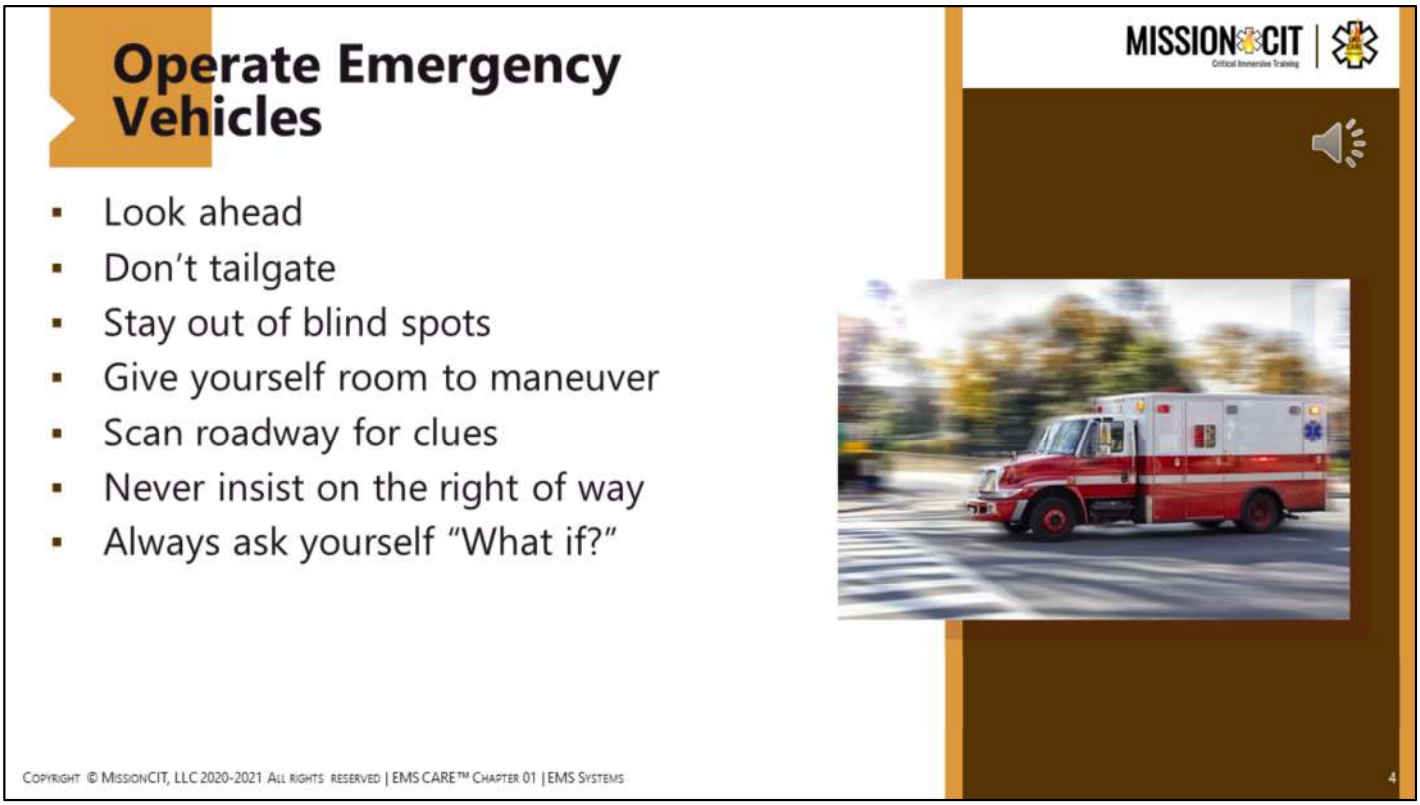
- Practice safe lifting. Use equipment, ask for help, and use good body mechanics.
- Use personal protective equipment (PPE) and follow standard precautions.
- Wear slip-resistant footwear, don't rush, and choose the best walkways.

Patient:

- Ensuring patient safety.
- Providing "best practices" consistent with current medical knowledge.
- Having the ability to meet patient-specific expectations.

Others on the scene:

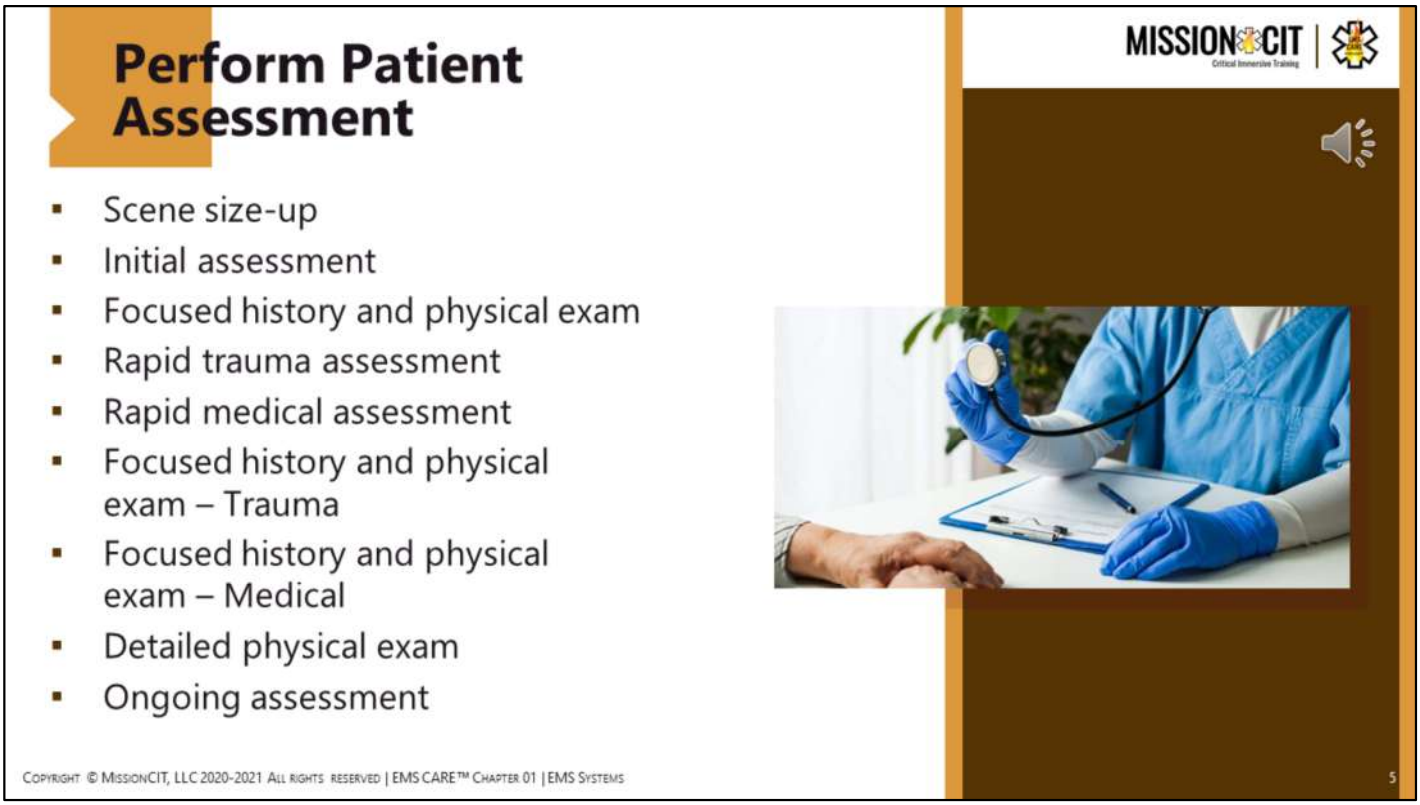
- Maintaining the safety of bystanders by operating the transport vehicle safely.
- Set up boundaries for violent situations such as active shooter events.




Good drivers adhere to practices that will reduce their risk and the risk of those around them. Below are some defensive driving tips that should be employed in all phases of emergency vehicle operations:

- Look ahead. Determine where you are going to be in about one city block and watch for any potential problems.
- Don't tailgate. Stay at least two seconds (3–5 or more on the highway or in bad road conditions) behind the vehicle ahead of you. This is about 1½ car lengths for every 10 mph.
- Make sure other drivers see you. Unaware drivers can be potential hazards. Stay out of blind spots. Always use your signals when turning or changing lanes.
- Give yourself room to maneuver. You want a position that allows you the most options in case of an emergency. Maintain as much room as possible on all four sides of your vehicle.
- Scan the roadway for potential clues. A rolling ball may mean there will be children chasing it. A car that just pulled into a parking space may mean a door will be opening.
- You should never insist on the right of way. If another driver does not yield to you, let him or her go first.
- Always ask yourself "What if?" What if someone cuts in front of me? Do I have enough

space to stop? Can I safely move to the next lane? If you answer no to one of these questions, adjust your position in traffic and/or reduce your speed.



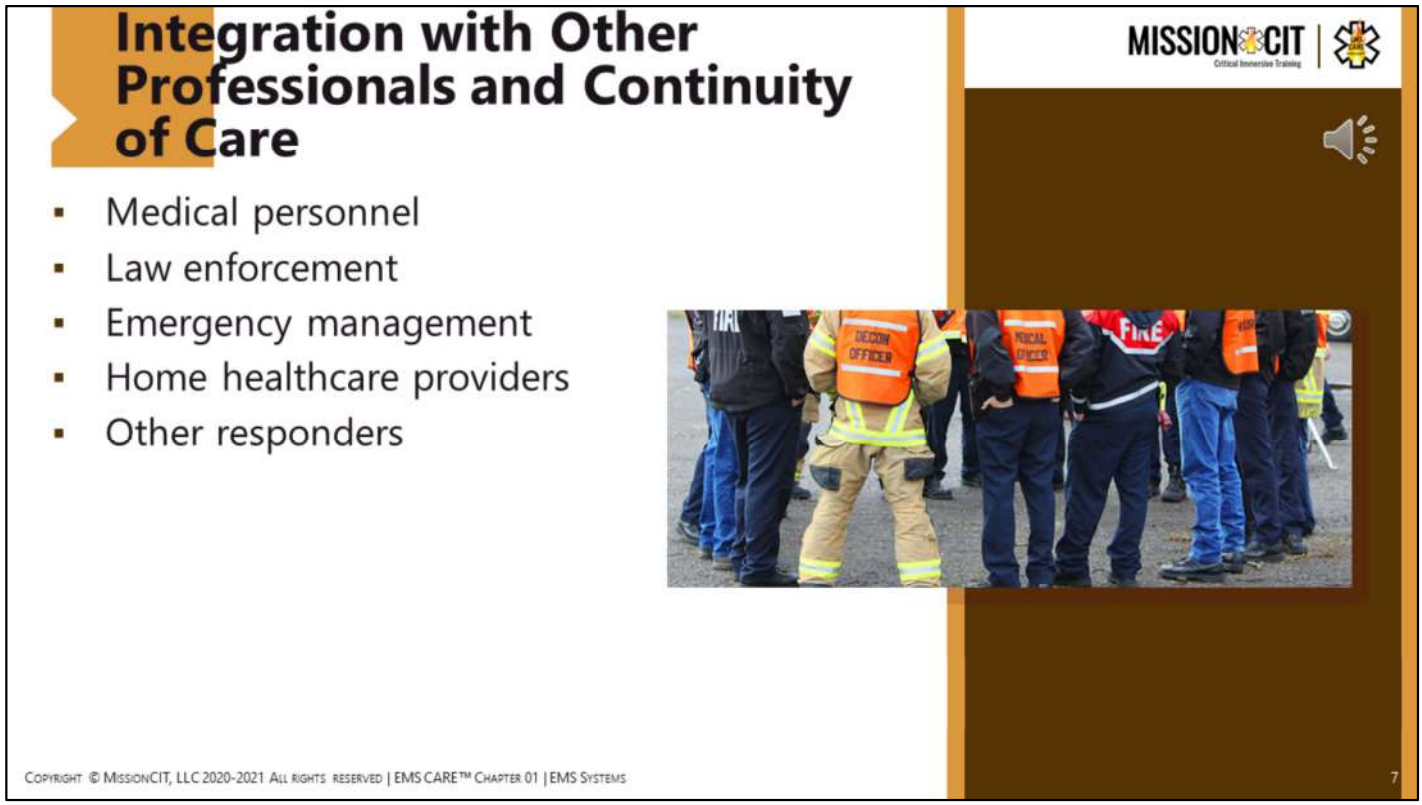

As an EMT, one of your most important functions will be assessment of your patient, or finding out enough about what is wrong with your patient to be able to provide appropriate emergency care. Assessment always precedes emergency care. Here are the steps involved in assessment:

- Scene size-up
- Initial assessment
- Focused history and physical exam
- Rapid trauma assessment
- Rapid medical assessment
- Focused history and physical exam – Trauma
- Focused history and physical exam – Medical
- Detailed physical exam
- Ongoing assessment



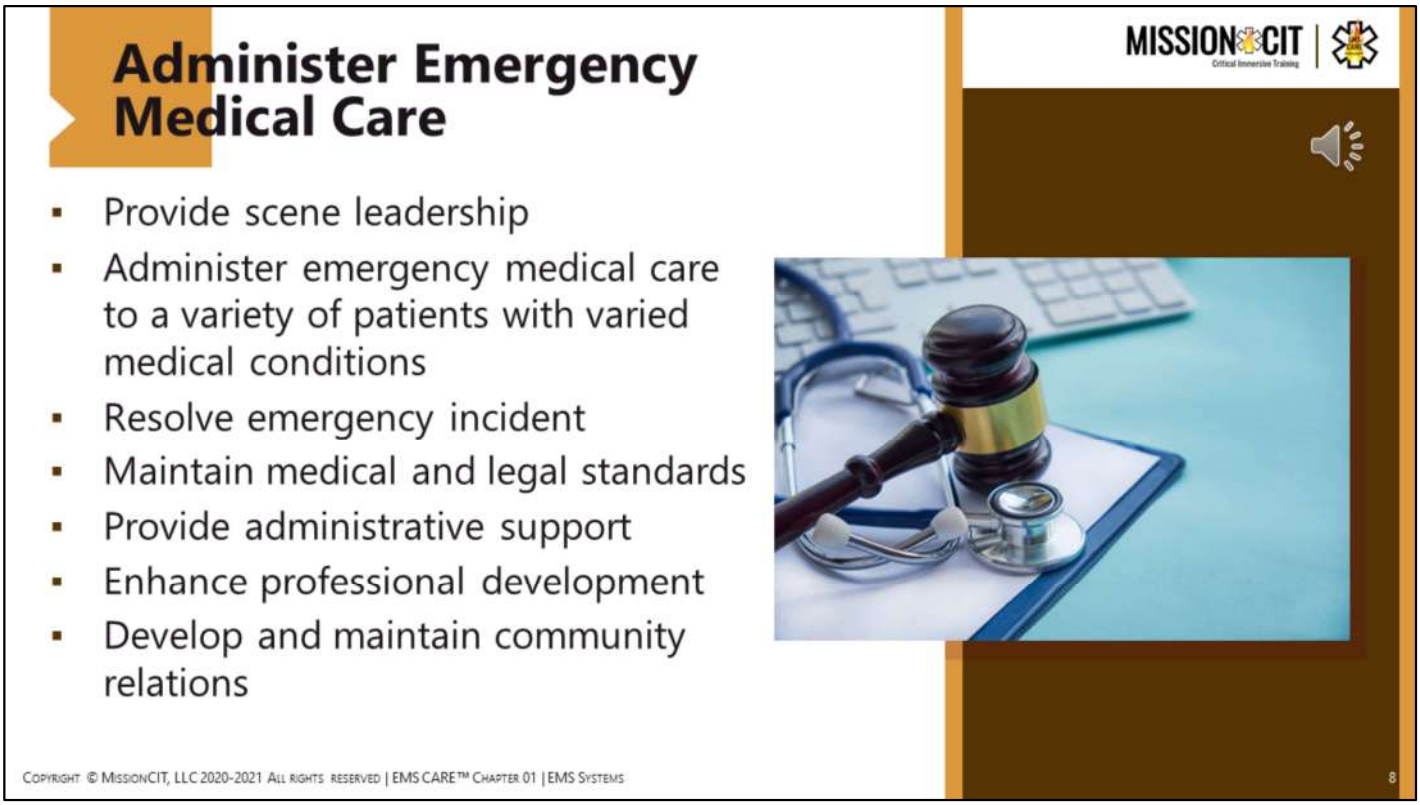

Fearing the unfamiliar is a common feeling among both patients and their families, but one of the many elements of emergency medical services includes mitigating that fear. Demonstrating emotional support to patient, bystanders, or other responders includes being a good listener, providing emotional support and offering unconditional positive support without judging the patient's condition. Be empathetic towards the patient and extend your support to:

- The patient
- Patient's family, and
- Other responders




EMS does not work in a vacuum. EMS personnel travel to people's homes and to vehicle crashes. Once on the scene, you deliver care and transport the patient to a care facility. You will collaborate with the following people to improve patient outcomes:

- Medical personnel
- Law enforcement
- Emergency management
- Home healthcare providers, and
- Other responders




Apart from the previously mentioned responsibilities, you will also:

- Provide scene leadership
- Administer emergency medical care to a variety of patients with varied medical conditions
- Resolve emergency incidents
- Maintain medical and legal standards
- Provide administrative support
- Enhance professional development, and
- Develop and maintain community relations

This brings us to the end of this lesson and in the next one, Justin will walk you through the Part B of this lesson.