



# To improve response times, city enlarges EMT staff, first time in 7 years

E-MAIL

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

GOOGLE

LINKEDIN

8



BOSTON EMS

**Boston EMT recruits in the classroom on their first day of training.**

**By Matt Rocheleau**

GLOBE STAFF OCTOBER 19, 2016

Boston is enlarging its staff of emergency medical technicians for the first time in seven years in an effort to improve response times.

Two classes of EMT recruits are in training. By the time they have all graduated in March, the

Emergency Medical Services Department expects to increase its staff of full-time EMTs by 20, to 371.

The beefed-up staff will be paid for with a \$2.5 million annual [budget increase](#) for the department. The money will also fund replacement of 10 aging ambulances in the city's fleet of about 50.

“I’m pleased to welcome this new class of recruits and thank them for their service to our city,” Mayor Martin J. Walsh said in a statement. “Investing in our emergency medical services means investing in the health and well-being of all Boston residents.”



Get Fast Forward in your inbox:

Forget yesterday's news. Get what you need today in this early-morning email.

Sign Up

In November, the Globe [reported](#) that response times to heart attacks, shootings, and other serious episodes had slowed in recent years, largely because of a [little-understood](#) surge in the number of calls for help.



View Story

## Boston EMS response

## **times slow amid 911 call surge**

The city hopes hiking the Emergency Medical Services Department's budget will reverse the trend of slow ambulance response times.

### **Boston eyes more money for EMS**

---

City officials said in a statement that the increase in EMS funding and staffing “will help meet the heightened demand for emergency medical services and reduce the median response times for the city’s highest priority calls.”

The staff expansion will allow the city to roll out either one or two additional ambulances, depending on the time of day.

City officials said it's the first time EMS has ever run two classes of recruits at the same time.

The men and women in training are all state-certified EMTs. Prior to training, they went through a hiring process that included exams and an interview.

Boston EMT recruits go through a six-month training academy that begins with three months in a classroom setting followed by three months in the field, working in ambulances.

The training expands the EMTs' clinical skills and prepares the recruits for “scenarios beyond the routine, including mass casualties, hazardous materials exposures, and active shooter incidents,” the city said.

Only those who successfully complete the training will graduate and be accepted by the department.

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at [matthew.rocheleau@globe.com](mailto:matthew.rocheleau@globe.com). Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele)

SHOW 8 COMMENTS

Stay updated, right in your news feed.

## Top 10 Trending Articles

Most Viewed

Most Commented

Most Shared

Legal Sea Foods chowder dropped from inauguration menu

Obama awards Biden Presidential Medal of Freedom

Brookline woman found dead in home; sister may have live...

Rural Americans are more likely to die from the top 5 cause...

The Ship may go down on Route 1

Yes, the NFL really does have a ratings problem

### Learn more

Trump's unchained ego takes center stage

SUBSCRIBE BOSTON GLOBE INSIDERS EPAPER EDITION

Intel officials disclosed Trump allegations out of fear they w...

MY ACCOUNT

LOGOUT

A liberal arts college without English majors? N.H. school re...

MANAGE MY ACCOUNT

DOWNLOAD CUSTOMER SERVICE APP

Politics, profits and the president at L.L. Bean

### SOCIAL

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

GOOGLE+

### CONTACT

HELP

FAQS

GLOBE NEWSROOM

ADVERTISE

### MORE

EPAPER

NEWS IN EDUCATION

ARCHIVES

PRIVACY POLICY

TERMS OF SERVICE

TERMS OF PURCHASE

YOUR AD CHOICES

WORK AT BOSTON GLOBE MEDIA

