Tufts Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) was founded in 1985 after a small group of students realized that Tufts would benefit from having a student-run on-campus organization to aid in the treatment and transportation of the sick and injured.

- The primary goal of TEMS is to provide the Tufts Community with professional, expeditious, and confidential emergency care.
- TEMS is also committed to educating the Tufts Community as to their role in the Chain of Survival by providing classes in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to interested individuals.
- TEMS works continuously in cooperation with the Department of Public Safety, Tufts University Health Services, the Dean of Students Office, Lawrence Memorial Hospital of Medford, Somerville Community Hospital, Cataldo Ambulance Service, and many other campus-based Emergency Medical Services to develop and improve the services that we provide to our community.
Since 1985 Tufts Emergency Medical Services has provided prompt, quality medical aid to the Tufts Community. Students that are Massachusetts certified Emergency Medical Technicians volunteer their time to care for the sick and injured with competency and compassion.

Each year TEMS volunteers respond to more than 350 requests for aid. The call volume ranges from non-emergency calls to life-threatening emergencies. During automobile accidents, heart attacks, asthma attacks or other life-threatening emergencies the rapid response often helps make the difference between life and death. All of the EMT’s are trained to the highest standards, with continuing education sessions held throughout the school year to expand and hone the skills of members.

TEMS is an entirely student-run organization. An elected board of directors manages TEMS. They are funded by and operate under the authority of the Department of Public Safety. TEMS works with and enjoys the support of Tufts University Police Department, Tufts University Health Services, the Dean of Students Office and the entire student body.

A specially equipped Ford Explorer was put into service in February 2001, replacing the previous response vehicle. All equipment that would be found on a normal Basic Life Support ambulance is carried in the TEMS truck. Enhanced basic life support equipment including a cardiac defibrillator is also carried. In the event that a patient needs to be transported to a hospital the services of a private ambulance company are called upon. If a patient’s condition is critical an Advanced Life Support unit from any of the nearby ambulance companies can be summoned.

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week the dedicated staff serves the University.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Community education is an important part of TEMS services. Each fall TEMS sponsors a class in Emergency Medical Technology. Conducted through the department of Physical Education, it is listed as PE 131, Emergency Care.

In the class students are trained in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, trauma management, medical emergency management, patient stabilization and extrication and more! At the end of the class students are given the opportunity to sit for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts EMT certification exam. Most the students in the class that complete the state exam go on to become members of TEMS and even work for outside ambulance companies.

In order to take this class at Tufts, you must register through TEMS. There is a three hundred and fifty dollar lab fee that must be collected during the class. You can reserve a place in the class by sending a $50 non-refundable deposit to EMT Class, c/o Tufts Emergency Medical Services to the address listed at the end of this brochure. (checks should be payable to Trustees of Tufts College)

Because TEMS is staffed entirely by students, we must rely on new members to replace those that graduate. If you have an interest in emergency pre-hospital medicine and would like to contribute to the Tufts Community, you are the type of person TEMS looks for. You do not need to be pre-med to join TEMS. Students from many diverse majors are members of TEMS.

Joining TEMS signifies a commitment to the Tufts Community. All TEMS members volunteer their time to provide a valuable and sometimes life saving service to the community. Beyond our function as an emergency medical service, TEMS members distinguish themselves in other community service programs.

Each year TEMS EMT’s organize and teach many HeartSaver community CPR classes. We hold several blood pressure clinics each year at which students, faculty and staff can practice good preventative medicine by having their blood pressure checked for free. An EMS display is present at the annual Kids Day each spring to help foster awareness of the important job that EMT’s and ambulances perform. To combat the tragedies caused by drunk driving accidents, TEMS participates with Students Against Drunk Driving to create a mock accident. This hopes to raise student awareness of the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol.

We are constantly exploring new ways to expand our programs. Currently we are working to provide First Aid training to interested students, faculty and staff at all Tufts campuses.

For More Information...

Write or call TEMS at 419 Boston Avenue
Medford, MA 02155
(617) 627-3868

For information specific to the EMT Class:
Attention: Director of Education