

I have been involved in Pre Hospital Care since 2002 when I joined Ballybunion Sea & Cliff Rescue Service and shortly afterwards, the Irish Coast Guard. Both of these are frontline emergency services operating an inshore rescue service and a coastal cliff rescue team respectively, on a 24/7 pager alert basis. Within Ballybunion Sea & Cliff Rescue I am a committee member as the Public Relations Officer holding that position every year since 2005. To date I am still involved in these rescue services on a voluntary basis as well as recently joining the Fermoy branch of the Irish Red Cross.

Since 2001 I have been dedicated to patient care in Pre hospital settings. Advancing through Emergency First Responder onto Emergency Medical Technician at my first opportunity. I am a PHECC assistant Tutor and a PHECC examiner Included in that I am a CFR - A, BLS HCP, OFA and EFR instructor. I have also completed the Pre Hospital Trauma Life Support provider course with the National Ambulance Service College.

In 2005 I joined An Garda Síochána and I am presently attached to the Divisional Traffic Corps based in Fermoy as well as being a member of the Southern Regions Public Order Unit. In both these units I am constantly using my EMT skills at a huge range of incidents.

I hold a B.A. In Policing Studies from HETAC, a Diploma in the Psychology of Criminal Behaviour from University College Cork and a Certificate in Training and Development.

I feel that I occupy a unique space as I can represent a number of groups of which I have personal experience. The role of the EMT has in recent times become the norm in a variety of search and rescue and voluntary settings and I feel I can represent this group well with my history of voluntary and full time service in the pre-hospital care industry.

If nominated to the Medical Advisory Committee it will be my goal to advance the EMT skill set, while still ensuring that EMTs are competent to practice at their level. In addition I would like to be an active participant in this committee and assist with the positive development of all levels and to be able to give a practical and realistic viewpoint.

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Omar Fitzell