



"Large scale triage is the hardest job anyone in prehospital care will ever do." AJ Heightman



Definition

- [French, from trier, to sort, from Old French.]
- A method of quickly identifying victims who have immediately life-threatening injuries AND who have the best chance of surviving
- Baron Dominique Jean Larry organized first triage system



NEED OF THE DISASTER TRIAGE

- Inadequate resource to meet immediate needs.
- Infrastructure limitations.
- Inadequate hazard preparation.
- Limitation transport capabilities.
- Multiple agencies responding.
- Hospital Resources overwhelmed



AIM OF TRIAGE

- To sort patients based on needs for immediate care
- Medical needs will outstrip the immediately available resources
- Additional resources will become available given enough time



PRINCIPLES OF TRIAGE

- Every patient should receive and triaged by appropriate skilled health-care professionals.
- Triage is a clinic-managerial decision and must involve collaborative planning.
- The triage process should not cause a delay in the delivery of effective clinical care.



ADVANTAGE OF TRIAGE

- Helps to bring order and organization to a chaotic scene
- It identifies and provides care to those who are in greatest need
- Helps make the difficult decisions easier
- Assure that resources are used in the most effective manner
- May take some of the emotional burden away, from those doing triage



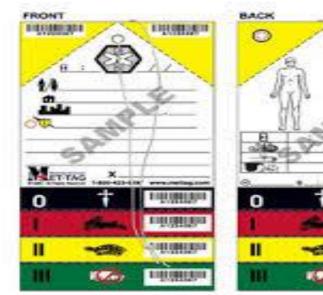
TRIAGE

Who is doing it?
Where are they doing it?
What are they finding?



- Created in the 1980's by Hoag Hospital and the Newport Beach CA Fire Dept
- Simple triage and rapid treatment (START) is a triage method used by first responders to quickly classify victims during a mass cassualty incident based on the severity of their injury
- Allows rapid assessment of victims
- It should not take more than 15 sec/ Pt
- Once victim is in treatment area more detailed assessment should be made

Triage Tags

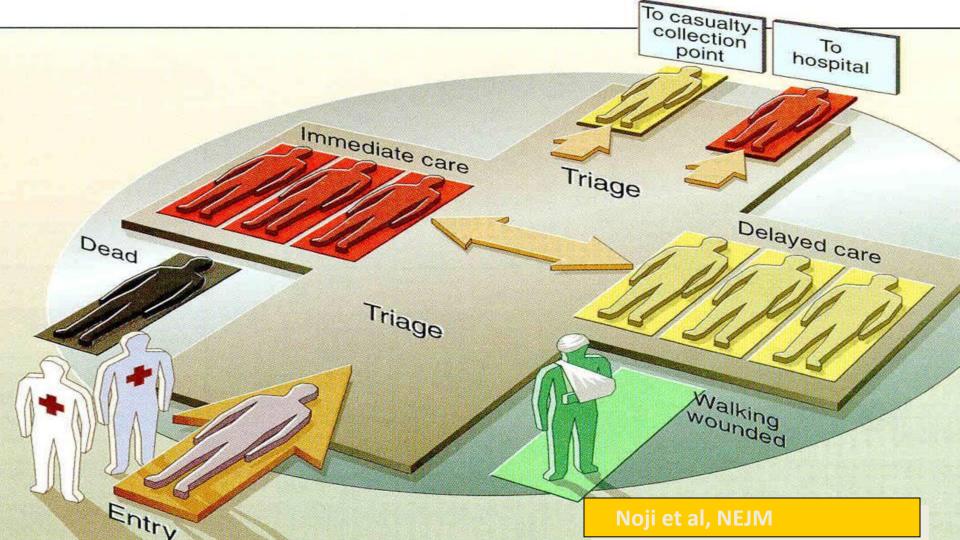




Tagging

- Complements Triage
- Rapid Identification of patient
- Color Coded / Bar Coded system
- Plastic "bands" can substitute tags

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Simple Triage And Rapid Treatment: Four Categories IMMEDIATE – life threatening, requires immediate care DELAYED – urgent care, but can delay for an hour MINOR - "walking wounded", can delay for three hours

DECEASED - mortally wounded, no care required

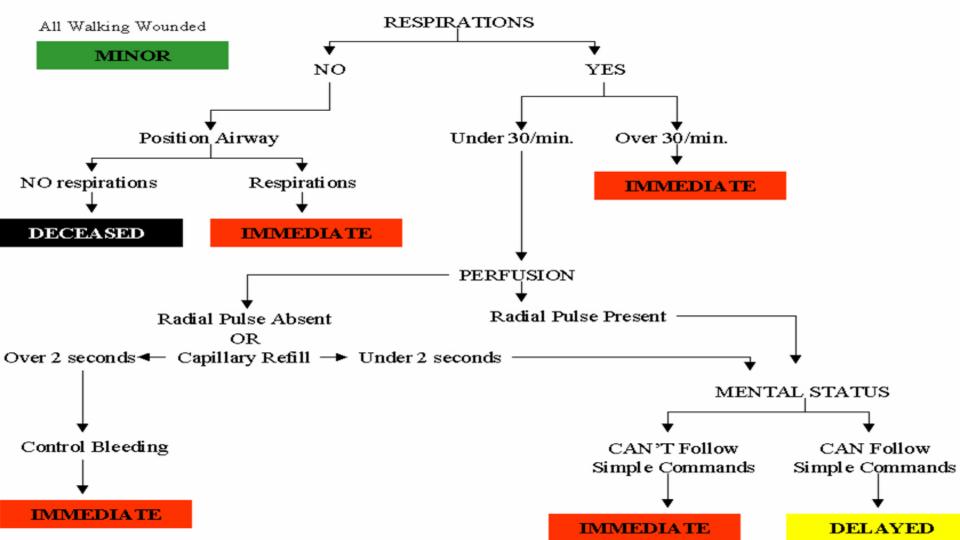


Triage category	Priority	Color	Conditions
Immediate	1	RED	Chest wounds, shock, open fractures, 2-3 burns
Delayed	2	YELLOW	Stable abdominal wound, eye and CNS injuries
Minimal	3	GREEN	Minor burns, minor fractures, minor bleeding
Expectant	4	BLACK	Unresponsive, high spinal cord injury



CLASIFICATION IS BASED ON THREE ITEMS

- Respiratory
- Perfusion
- Mental status evaluation

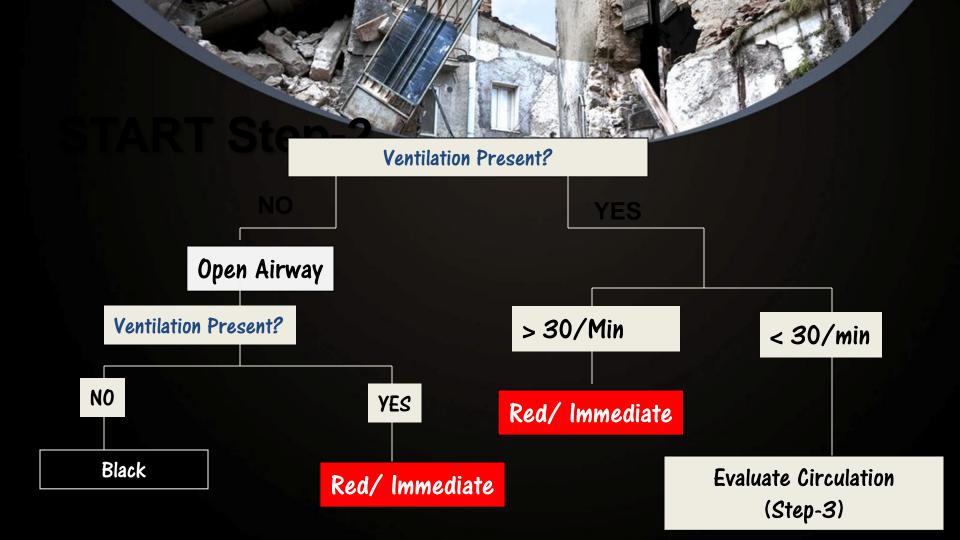


START FIRST STEP

Can the Patient Walk?

Green (Minor) **Evaluate Ventilation**

(Step-2)





Absent Radial Pulse

Control Hemorrhage



Present Radial Pulse

Evaluate Level of Consciousness

Level of Consciousness

Can't Follow Simple Commands

Red/ Immediate

Can Follow Simple Commands

Yellow/ Delayed

START-Overview

- Remember RPM
- R- Respirations- 30
- P- Perfusion- Radial Pulse
- M- Mental- Follows Commands



RPM CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	RPM INDICATIONS
Critical RED	RR >30bpm P'CAPILLARY REFIL :>2 SEC MENTAL STATUS: Does not obeys commands
Urgent YELLOW	RR< 30bpm P <2 sec M : Obey's commands
Expectant DEAD / DYING	RR: not breathing P not present M not responding



- Patients with exposure (potential or real) to contaminants should be tagged as BLUE
- This category will continue to stay until patient is adequately decontaminated then follow START as usual
- Some recommend a "double tagging" with blue and the standard START color

VICTIMS

- Female, 30's, walking
- Female, teens, walking, pale, complaining of severe abdominal pain
- Male, teens, walking, confused
- Male, teens, you open airway, does not breathe
- Male, 20's, unconscious, breathing, RR 36, radial pulse absent
- Male, 20's, holding left ankle, cannot walk, RR 20, CRT 1, responds to instructions

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