

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY – PLEVEN FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER FOR DISTANCE LEARNING



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Triage



- "To Sort"
- Look at medical needs and urgency of each individual patient
- Triage in Daily Emergencies
 Do the best for each individual
- Disaster Triage
 - Do the greatest good for the greatest number
 - Make an impossible task manageable



The triage is a very important but difficult, long and dynamic process.

- This is a sorting activity, developed originally to classify the victims of war and disaster, according to the urgency of their medical needs and their likelihood of survival, if treated.
- >the word triage comes from French word for "sort out".
- various systems of triage have been developed, some of which have been in use for several decades.
- It the Red Cross, for instance, uses a different system than the Civil Defense and this was different again from that used by the Armed Forces.

Triage should be understood as a complex process which includes:

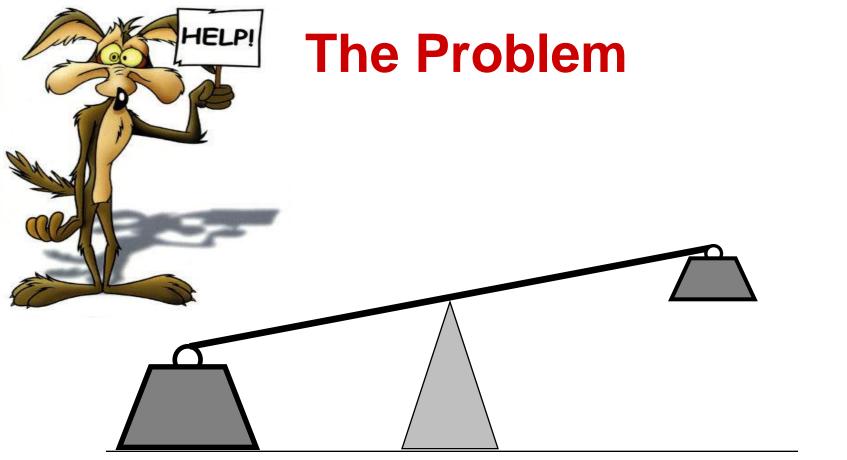
- A sorting, classification/categorization, selection
- **B** initiating life-saving measures
- **C** re-evaluation
- D adaptive process (medical care/criteria) according to the evolution of:
 - ✤ needs
 - condition of the victim
 - treatment capacity at field level, during evacuation and at hospital

The triage is based on the clinical impression of the existing and expected condition of the injured person.



Considerations During an MCI Response

- Supply vs. Demand
- Resource Allocation
- Coordination
- Medical Management
- Ethics



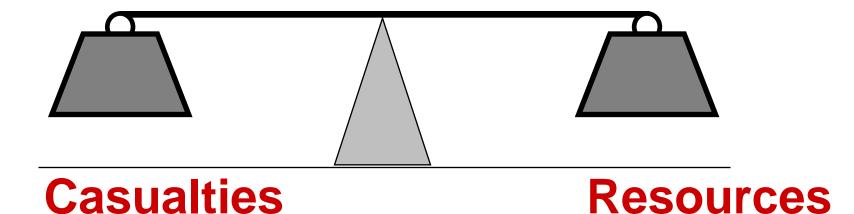
Casualties

Resources

The triage process aims to:

- Ensure care to casualties according to:
 - 1. severity of injury
 - 2. need for treatment
 - 3. possibility of good quality survival
 - 4. availability of medical care
- **Determine priority** for evacuation.
- Organize the dispatching and evacuation of patients to hospital.
- Decide priority for surgical and other specific treatment.

The Objective



There are two major types of triage: Primary (first), non medical pre-hospital triage; rescuer's triage; On scene prior to movement or at hospital (self transports) Secondary (second), incident dependent, probably prior to or during transport or upon arrival to hospital; medical triage made by specially trained physicians at an Advanced Medical Post (CCP) or at the receiving Hospital.

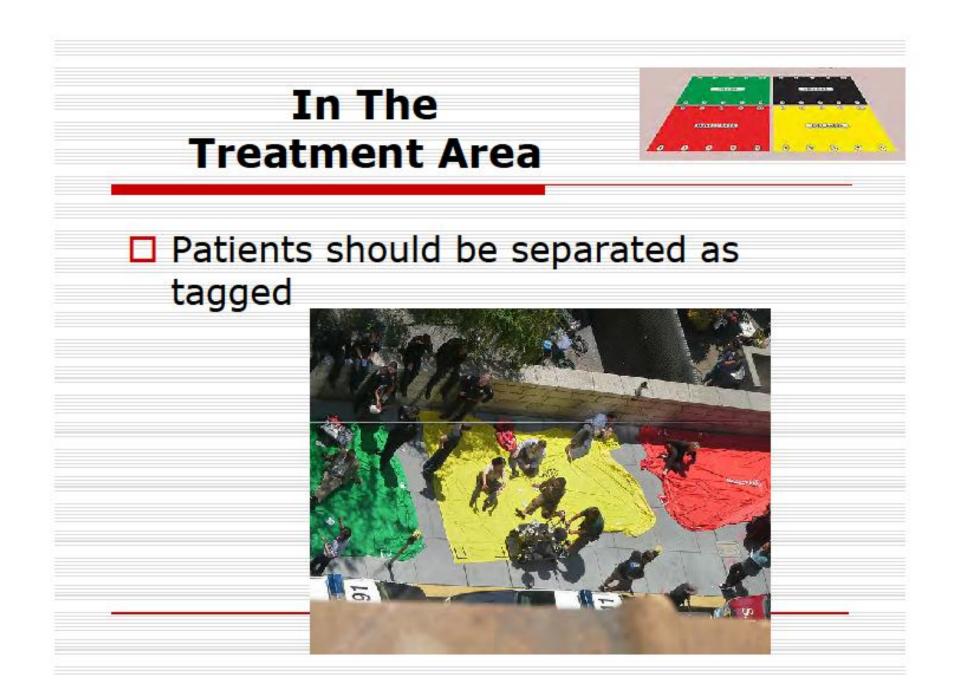
Primary and Secondary Triage

Primary triage

- 1st contact
- Assign triage category

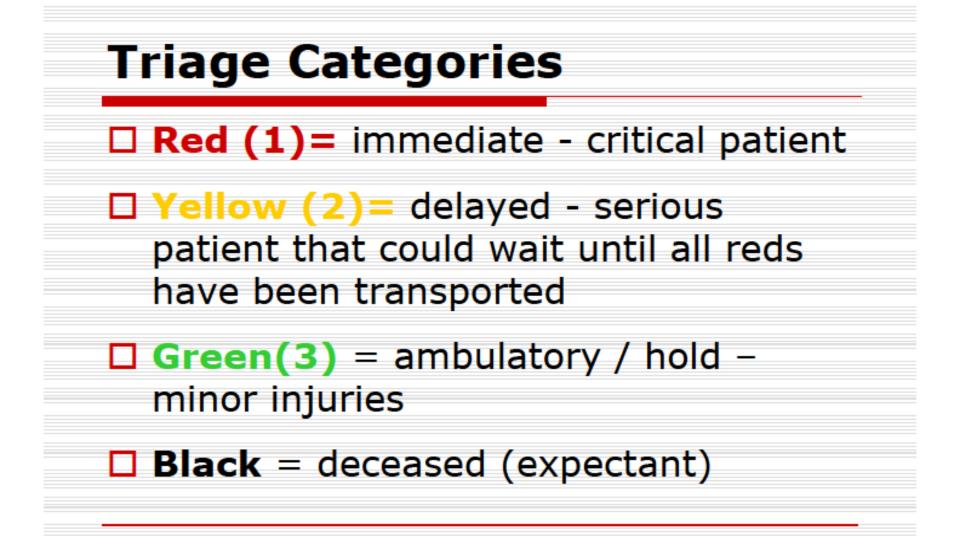
Secondary triage

ongoing process that takes place after the patient has been moved to a treatment/holding area awaiting transport.



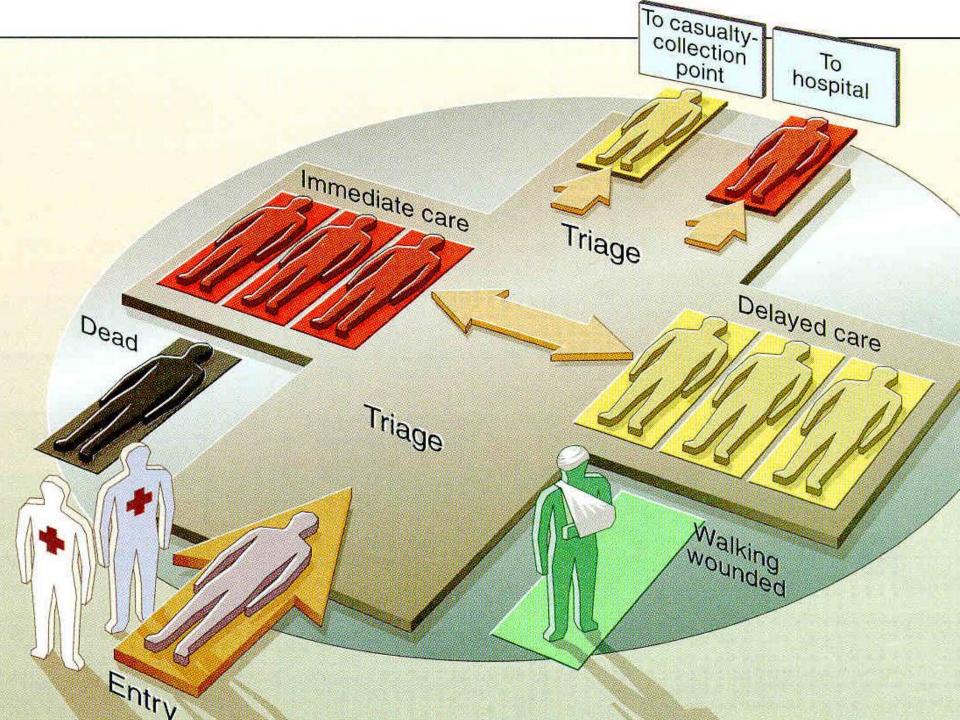
Why Triage and Tag?

- Sorting of patients to provide for the survival of the most patients
- Assignment of resources in the most efficient method
- Most severe survivable injuries receive rapid treatment
- Accountability of patients
- Family reunification



Triage Categories

- **RED** Immediate/emergent
- YELLOW Urgent
- **GREEN** Nonurgent
- BLACK- Dead/little to no hope of survival



RED Triage Category (Immediate)AdultPediatric

Respirations > 30 BPM (breaths/min, RR (respiratory rate) CR (capillary refill time) > 2 seconds or no palpable radial pulse Cannot follow simple commands

> Pneumothorax Hemorrhagic Shock Closed Head Injury

Respirations < 15 or > 45 CR > 2 seconds or no palpable radial or brachial pulse Inappropriate "Pain" (e.g., posturing) or "Unresponsive"



RED - Immediate



- Severely injured but treatable injuries and able to be saved with relatively quick treatment and transport
- Examples
 - Severe bleeding
 - Shock
 - Open chest or abdominal wounds



Capillary nail refill test

The capillary nail refill test is a quick test done on the nail beds. It is used to monitor dehydration and the amount of blood flow to tissue.

Pressure is applied to the nail bed until it turns white. This indicates that the blood has been forced from the tissue. Once the tissue has blanched, pressure is removed. Return of blood is indicated by the nail turning back to a **pink color**. This test measures how well the vascular system works in hands and feet. If there is good blood flow to the nail bed, a pink color should return in less than 2 seconds after pressure is removed. Blanch times that are greater than 2 seconds may indicate: **Dehydration, SHOCK, Peripheral vascular disease** (PVD), Hypothermia

YELLOW Triage Category (Delayed)

Adult: respirations, capillary refill, and mentation are normal

- Isolated burns
- Extremity fractures
- Stable other trauma
- Most patients with medical complaints



Yellow - Delayed

Injured and unable to walk on their own. Potentially serious injuries but stable enough to wait a short while for medical treatment

- Examples
 - Burns with no respiratory distress
 - Spinal injuries
 - Moderate blood loss
 - Conscious with head injuries



GREEN Triage Category (Minor)

- "Walking wounded"
- Psychological casualties
- Always look for children being carried and assess them



Green – Non-Urgent

- Minor injuries that can wait for a longer period of time for treatment.
- May or may not be able to ambulate
- Examples
 - Minor fractures
 - Minor bleeding
 - Minor lacerations

GREY Triage Category (Expectant)

- This category is not currently in use and <u>must</u> <u>not</u> be utilized until approved by MIEMSS
- It is included on the paper tags in anticipation of national recognition and acceptance in the future

 GREY is for the patient that is not likely to survive even with emergent interventions

BLACK Triage Category (Deceased)

- Obvious mortality or death (pulseless and apneic)
 - Decapitation
 - Blunt trauma arrest
 - Injuries incompatible with life (future GREY)
 - Brain matter visible (future GREY)

Blunt trauma arrest (Agonal)

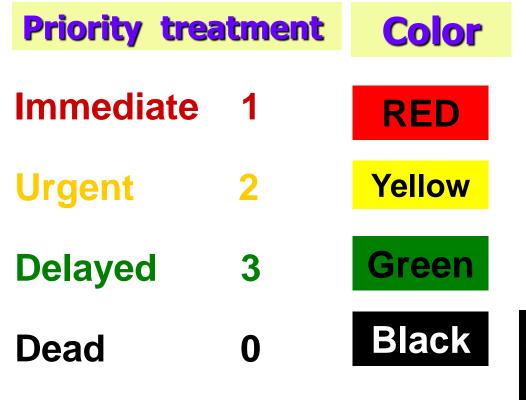
- Severely injured patients (Class IV Shock) who are non- responders to fluid resuscitation.
 Markers
- Heart rate less than 60
- Systolic blood pressure less than 80
- Any ventricular fibrillation, ventricular tachycardia, or pulseless
- Loss of signs of life absent respirations, absent pupil response, GCS 3 - 4

Black - Deceased

- Dead or obviously dying. May have signs of life but injuries are incompatible with survival.
- Handle based on local protocols
- Examples
 - Cardiac arrest
 - Respiratory arrest with a pulse
 - Massive head injury
- Can be psychologically difficult to tag a child as black



Triage Coding





Triage: A rapid approach to prioritizing a large number of patients

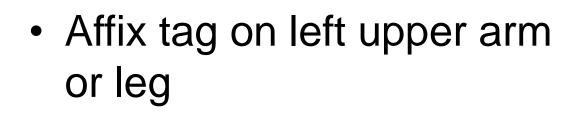




JumpSTART

Triage

- Triage should be performed RAPIDLY
- Utilize START/ JumpSTART Triage to determine priority
- 30–60 seconds per patient





The "START" System of Triage

- using START Triage, evaluate victims and assign them to one of the following four categories:
 - Walking wounded/minor (green)
 - Delayed (yellow)
 - Immediate (red)
 - Deceased/expectant (black)

Triage: Sorting of Patients

- You can't commit to "one-on-one" care
- You have to be fast 30 sec or less per patient
- Very limited treatment is provided
 - Manually open airways
 - Clear airway with finger sweep
 - Control major bleeding

"START" Focus on tagging the patients

BEGIN...

Clear out all <u>ambulatory patients</u> – tag <u>Green</u>

- Rest of the patients require MORE triage 3 steps: They will be either red, yellow or black.
 - Respiratory effort
 - Pulses/perfusion
 - Mental status

START – 4 things to think about...

Ability to follow directions and walk

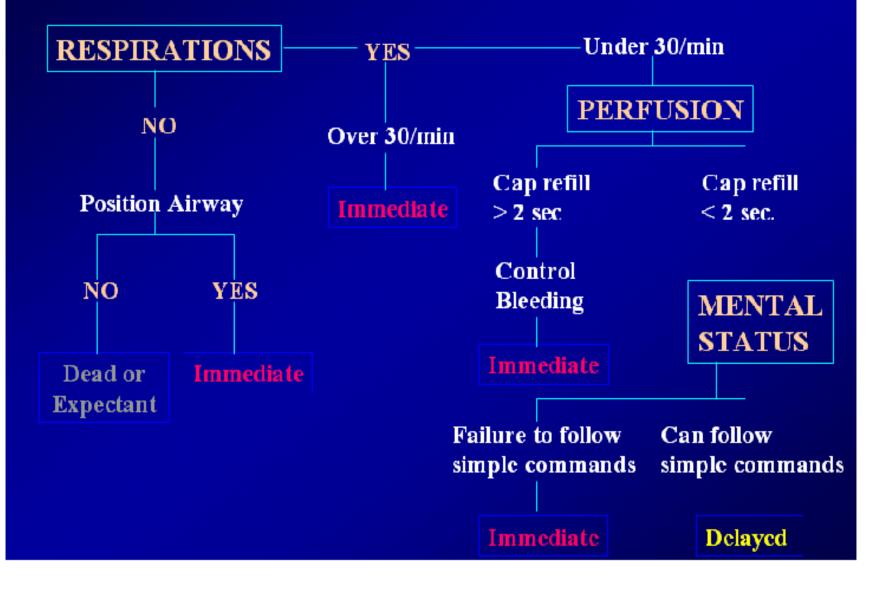
Respiratory effort

Pulses/perfusion

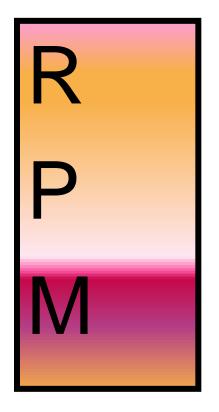


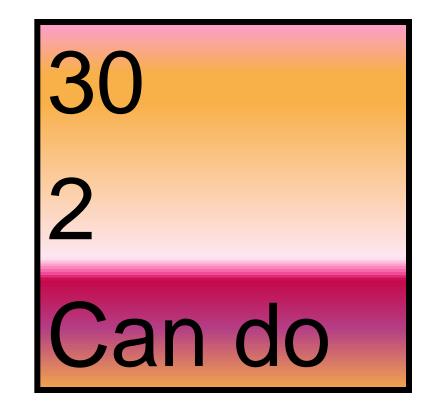


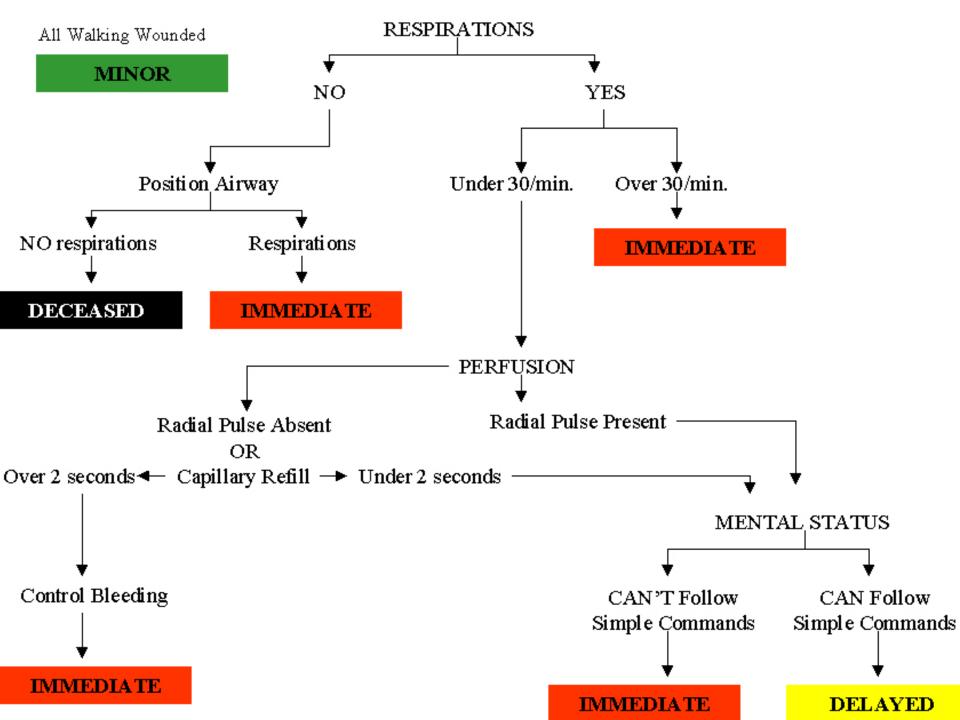
START Triage



Mnemonic







START – JumpSTART Triage

Clear the "walking wounded" with verbal instruction:

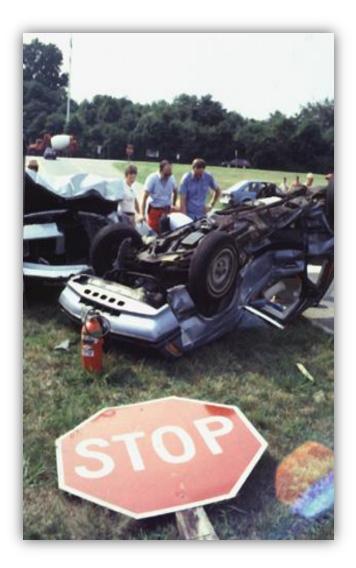
If you can hear me and you can move, walk to...

- Direct patients to the casualty collection point (CCP) or treatment area for detailed assessment and medical care
- Assign a Green Minor Manager to the area to control patients and manage area
- Tag will be issued at the CCP
- These patients may be classified as **MINOR**

START/JumpSTART

Now use START/JumpSTART to assess and categorize the remaining patients...

> USE <u>COLORED</u> RIBBONS ONLY





START – Step 1 Respiratory Effort

- Not breathing manually open their airway
 - If they start breathing tag RED
 - If they don't start breathing tag BLACK

Breathing >30 or <10 = tag RED</p>

Breathing normal 10-30 = <u>go to next</u> <u>step</u>

RESPIRATIONS

Is the patient breathing?

Yes

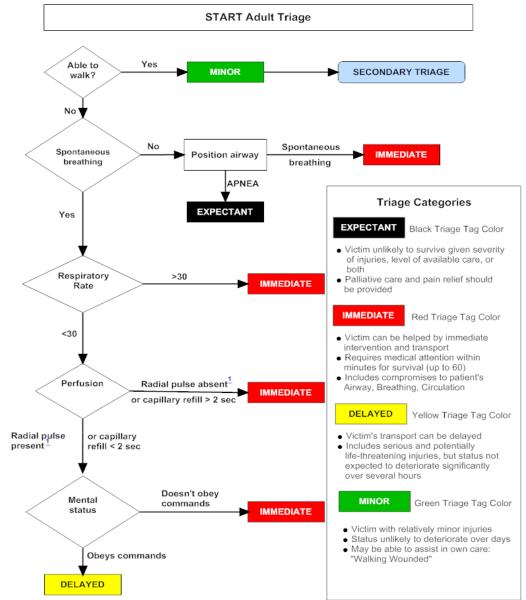
- Adult respirations > 30 = **Red/Immediate**
- Pediatric respirations < 15 or > 45 = **Red/Immediate**
- Adult respirations < 30 = check perfusion
- Pediatric respirations > 15 and < 45 = check perfusion

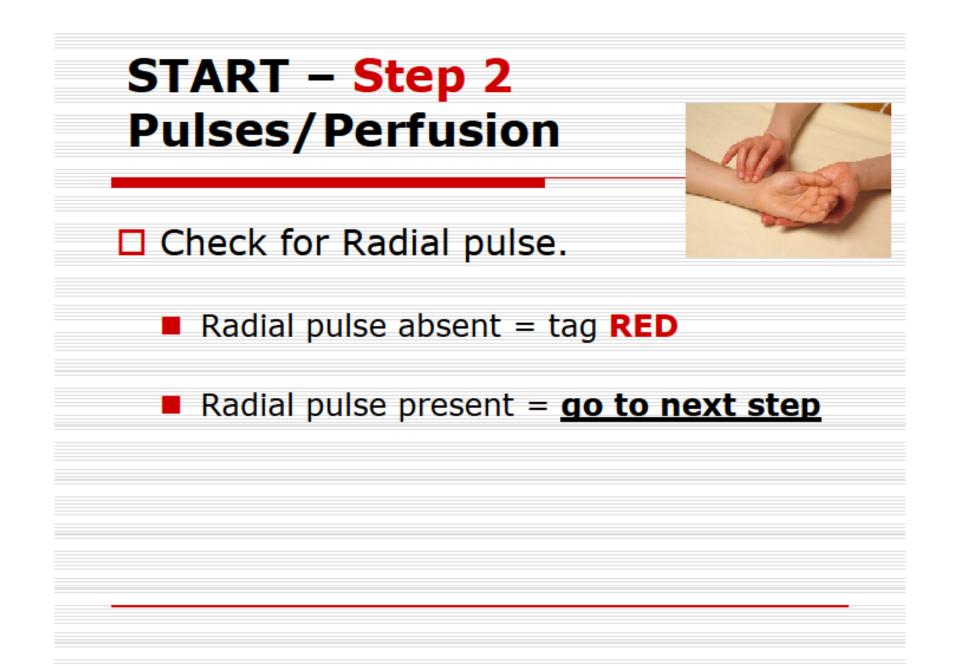
RESPIRATIONS

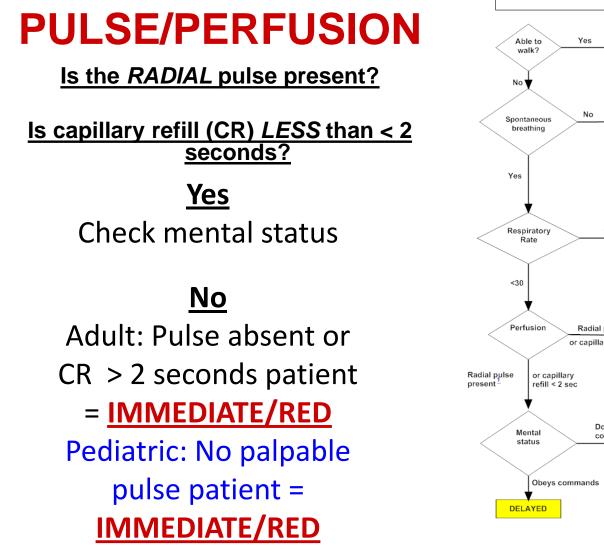
Is the patient breathing?

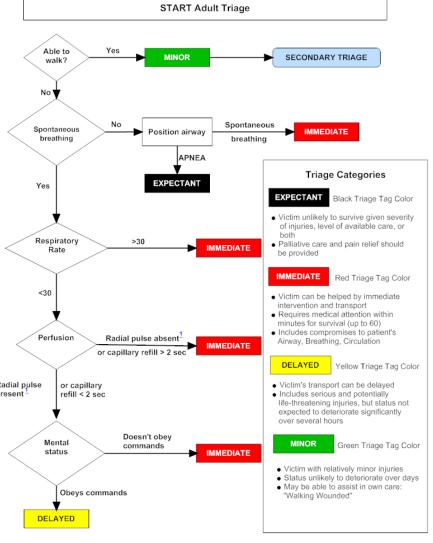
No

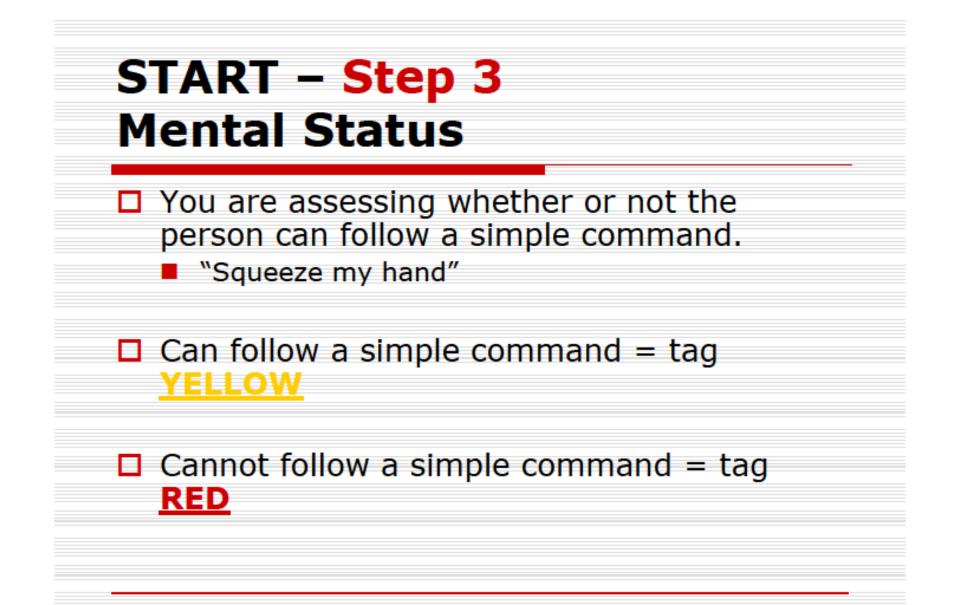
- Reposition the airway...
- Respirations begin = **IMMEDIATE/RED**
- If patient is **APNEIC**
 - Adult deceased = BLACK
 - Pediatric: Pulse Present give 5 rescue breaths
 - respirations begin = <u>IMMEDIATE/RED</u>
 - absent respirations deceased = BLACK



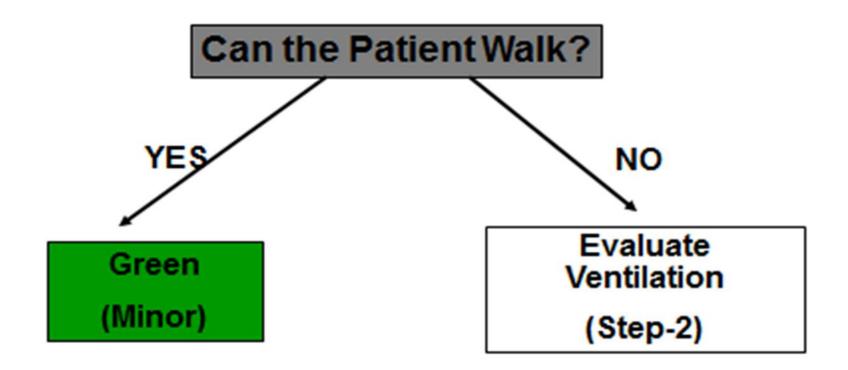




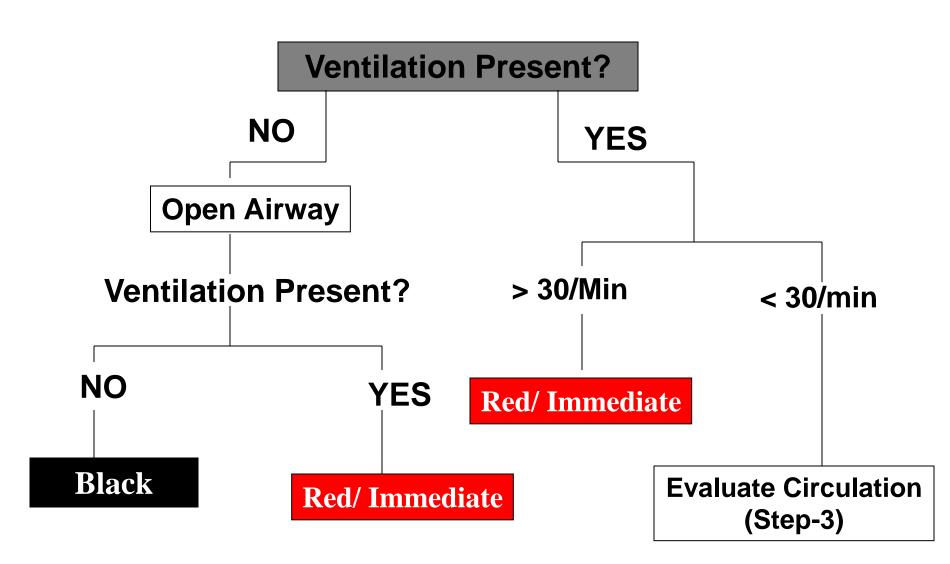


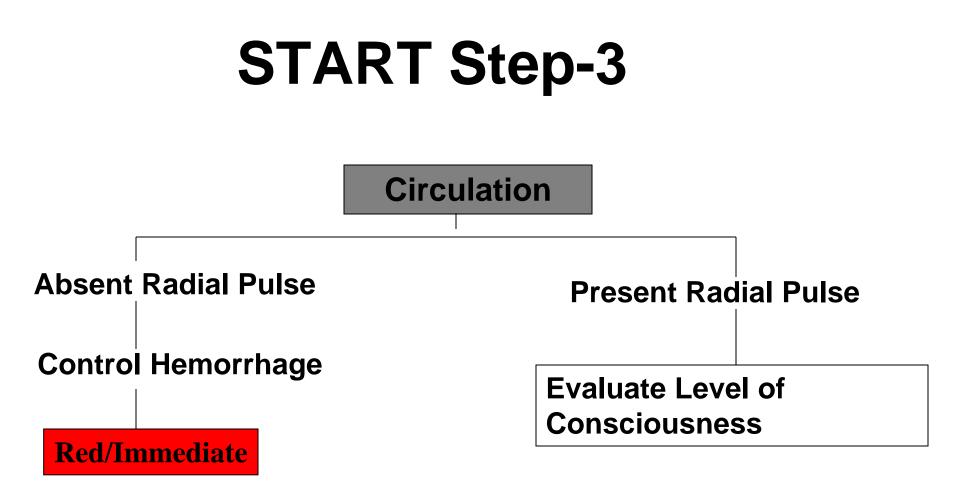


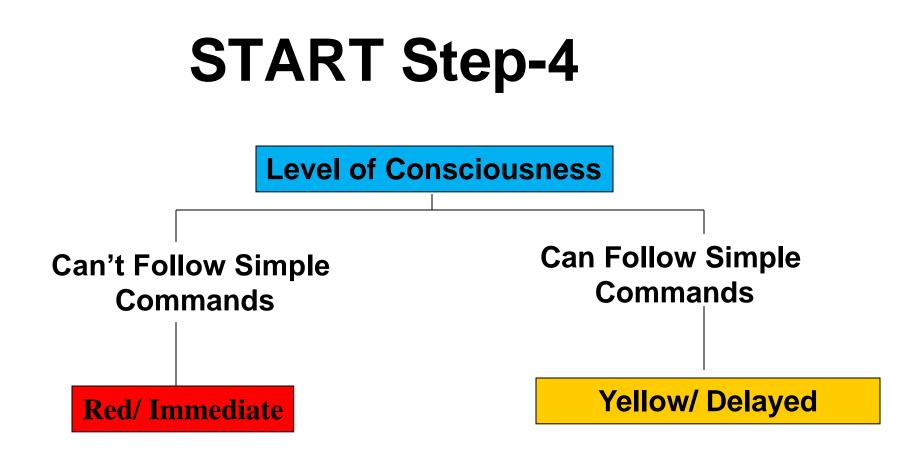
START First Step



START Step-2







MENTAL STATUS...

Can the patient follow simple commands?

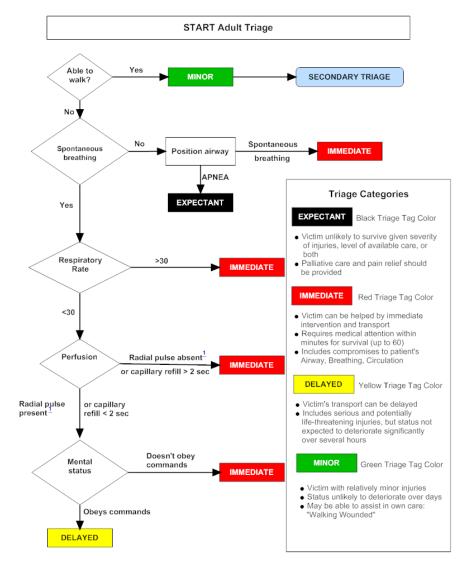
Adult = DELAYED / YELLOW

Pediatric: alert, verbal, or pain response is appropriate = <u>DELAYED / YELLOW</u>

<u>No</u>

Adult = **IMMEDIATE / RED**

Pediatric – "P" pain causes inappropriate posturing or "U" unresponsive to noxious stimuli = <u>IMMEDIATE/ RED</u>



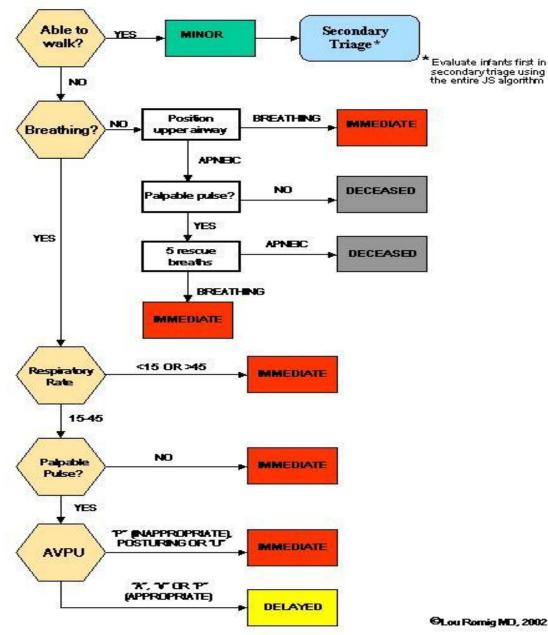
START/JumpSTART

If the patient is **IMMEDIATE/RED** upon initial assessment...then, before moving the patient to the treatment area, attempt only life-saving interventions:

Airway, Needle Decompression, Tourniquet, Antidote

DO NOT ATTEMPT ANY OTHER TREATMENT AT THIS TIME

JumpSTART Pediatric MCI Triage®



- In children, ٠ circulatory failure usually follows respiratory failure.
- Apnea may occur ٠ relatively rapidly, rather than after a prolonged period of hypoxia.
- There may be a • brief period when the child is apneic but not yet pulseless since the heart has not yet experienced prolonged hypoxia. It is felt that providing a brief trial of ventilations may help "jumpstart" their respirations.

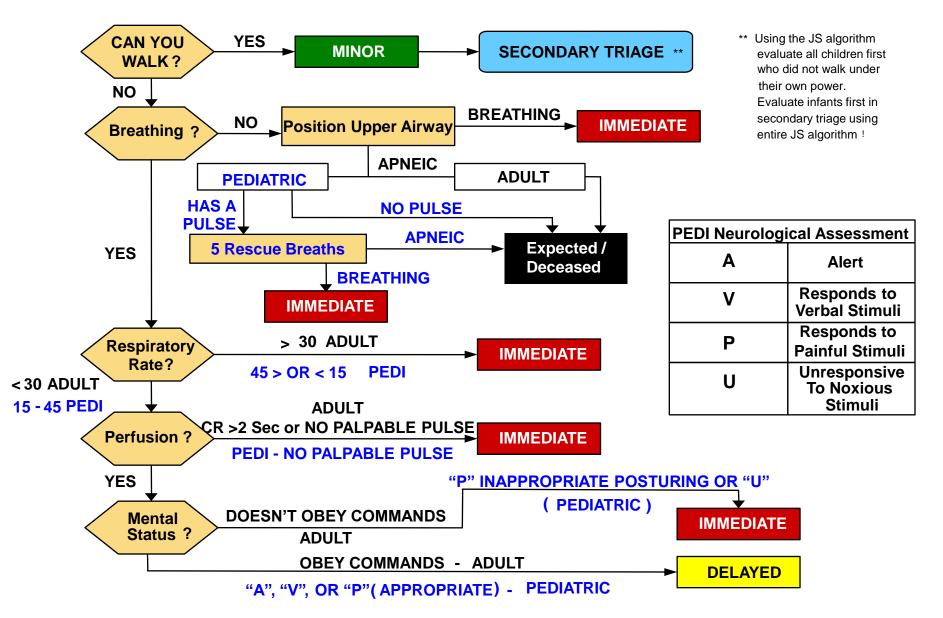
JumpSTART: Age

The ages of "tweens and teens" can be hard to determine so the current recommendation is:

> If a victim appears to be a **child**, use JumpSTART.

If a victim appears to be a **young adult**, use START

Combined START/JumpSTART Triage

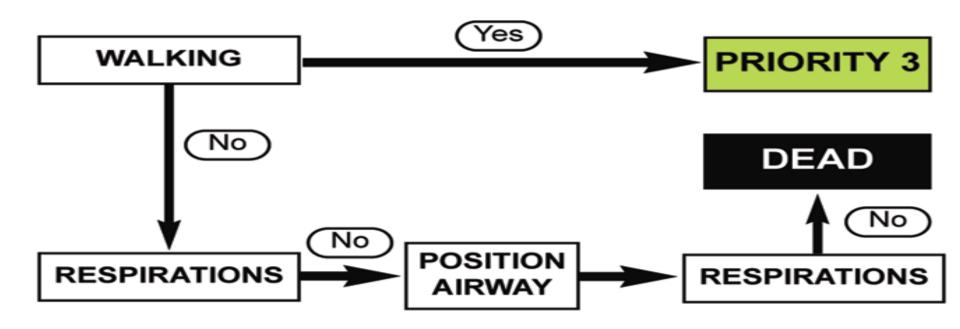




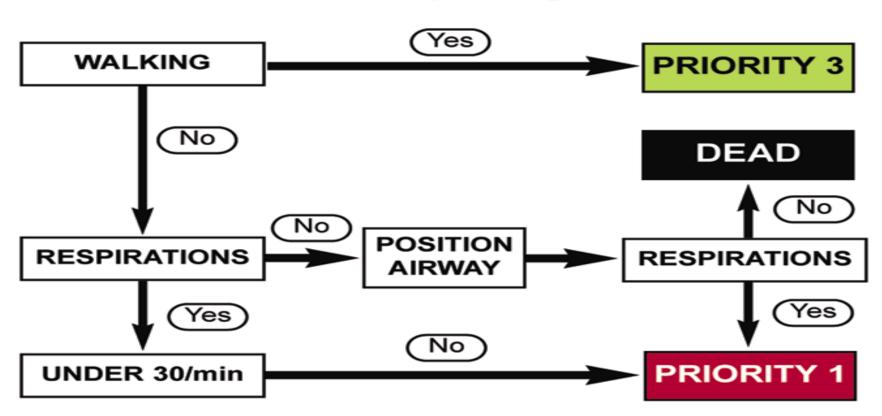
- <u>A</u>lert/awake not necessarily oriented
- <u>V</u>erbal responds to verbal stimuli before tactile/touch stimuli
 - You shout for the patient to open their eyes and their eyelids flicker or they open their eyes
 - In non-verbal children, evaluate the cry
- Painful responds to tactile stimuli; does <u>not</u> have to be painful stimuli but can be to touch
 - A flicker of the eyelids is a positive response
- <u>Unresponsive</u> there is absolutely no response large or small



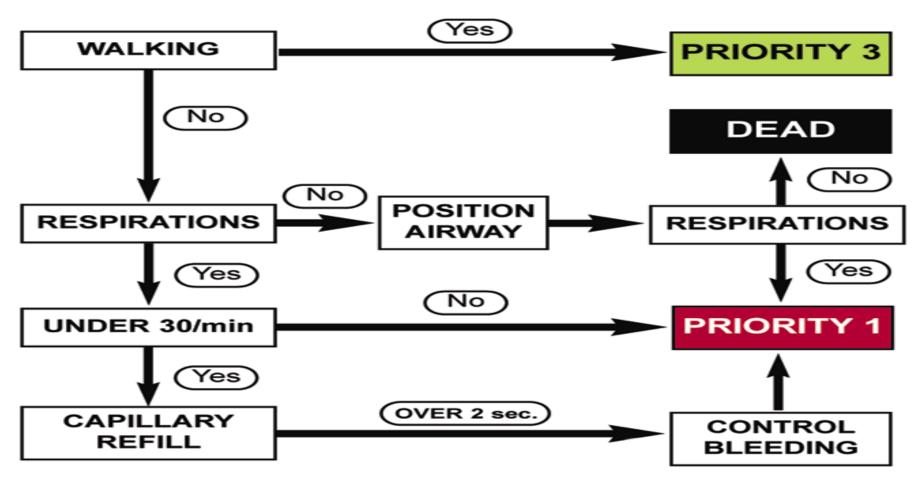
The first attempt at balancing resources and casualties/injured



Determining whether there is an airway and breathing



If breathing, at what rate & is it good enough?

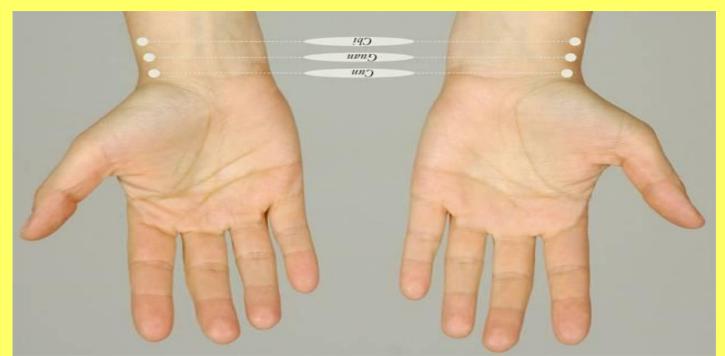


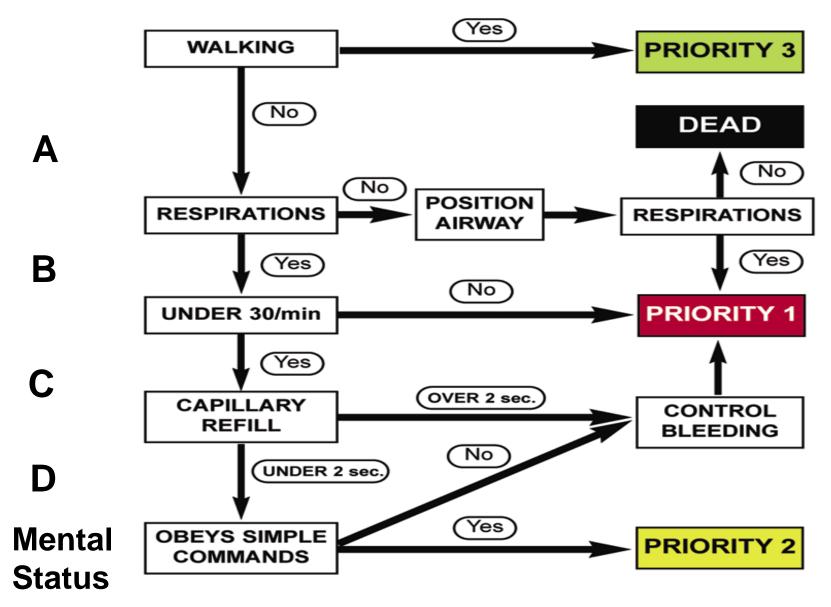
They have an airway, are breathing.

Are they circulating blood sufficiently?

Circulatory Check

If you are unable to obtain a capillary refill, check the radial pulse. If absent then control any bleeding and prioritize the patient **PRIORITY 1**





PRIORITY 3

- Not injured or "Walking wounded"
- Have motor, respiratory, mental function



PRIORITY 1

- Opening airway, starts to breathe
- Breathing is greater than 30 or less than 10
- Delayed capillary refill time (> 2 seconds)
- Absent radial pulses
- Bleeding that needs to be controlled
- Does not follow instructions



PRIORITY 2

- Did not move out, when asked
- Airway OK
- Breathing within 11 and 29
- Capillary refill less than 2 seconds or radial pulses present
- Can follow instructions to move unaffected limb



EXPECTANT/DEAD

- Still require resources
- Focus of care is comfort
- Psychologically most challenging for healthcare providers

Triage Tag Sections

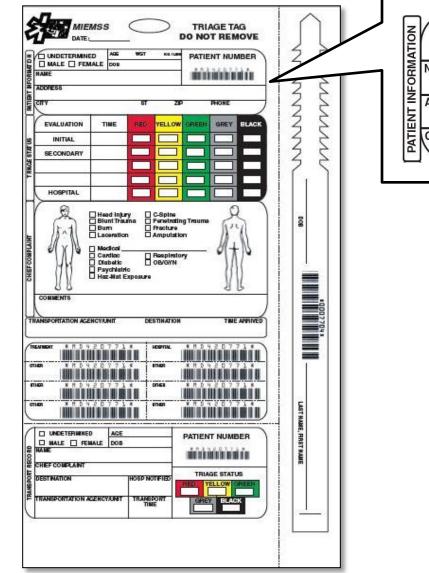
- Patient information
- Triage status
- Chief complaint
- Transporting unit
- Peel-off bar codes
- Transport record

- Vital signs
- Medical history
- Treatment
- Family contact
- Wrist band

* Triage tags should be used in all MCI scenarios, even when handheld device is employed

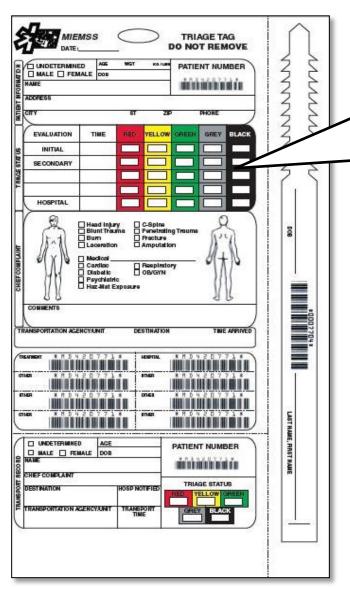
Revised Paper Triage Tag

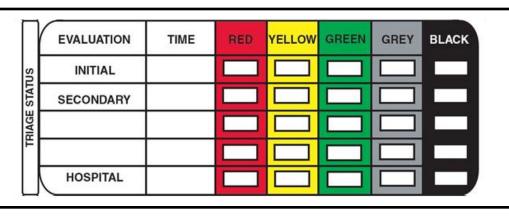
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PATIENT INFORMATION		AGE WGT KG/LBS DOB			PATIENT NUMBER		
	ADDRESS		ST	ZIP	PHONE		

- PATIENT
 INFORMATION
- Triage status
- Chief complaint
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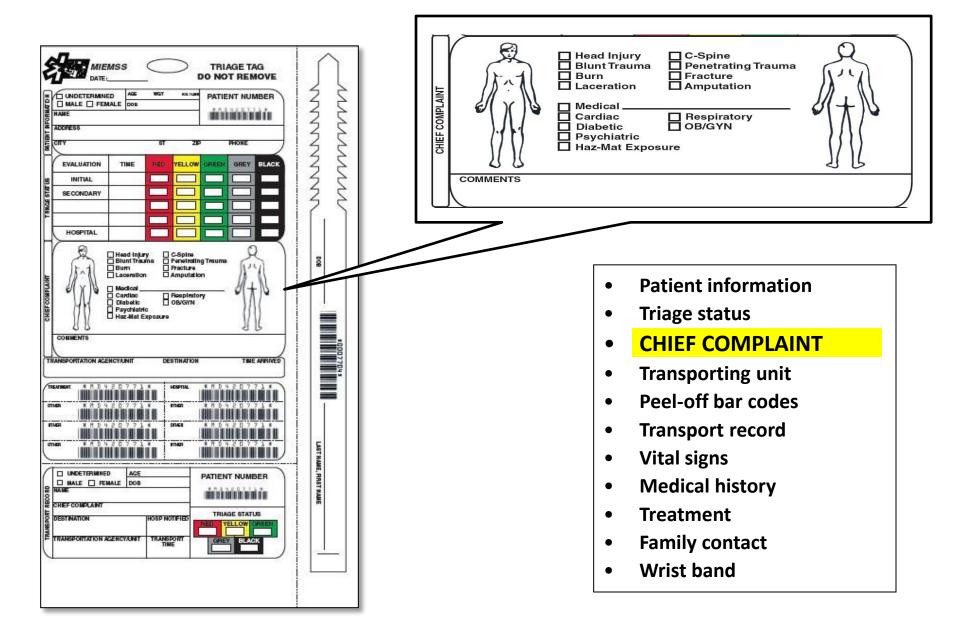


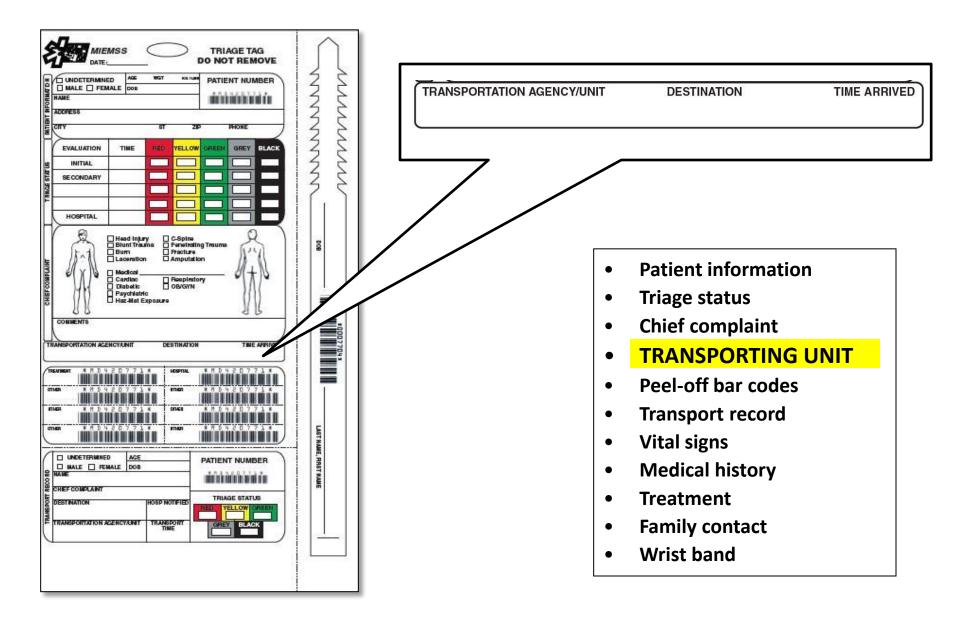


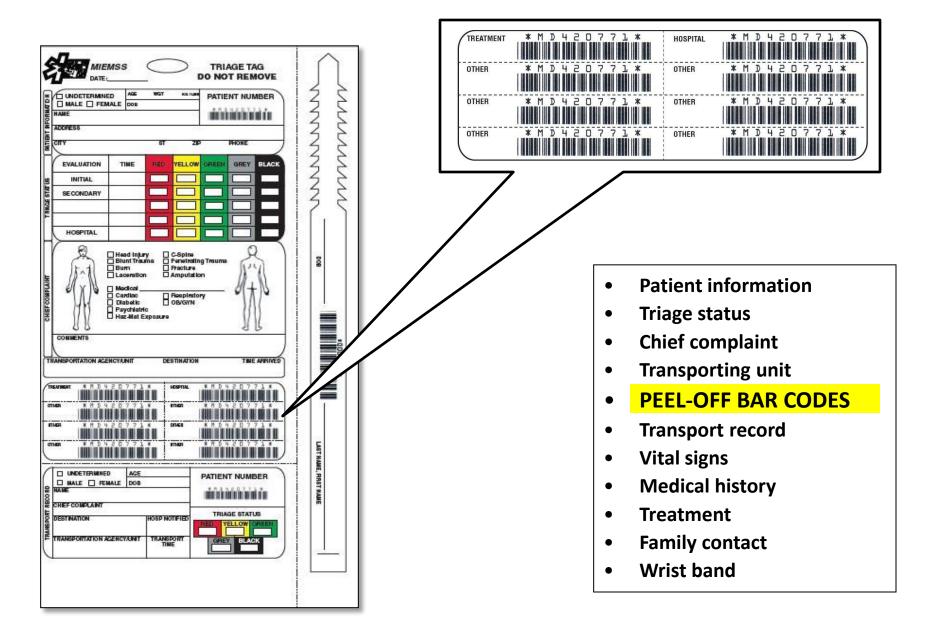
The paper triage tag includes a **GREY** category for *future use* based on *anticipated* national acceptance.

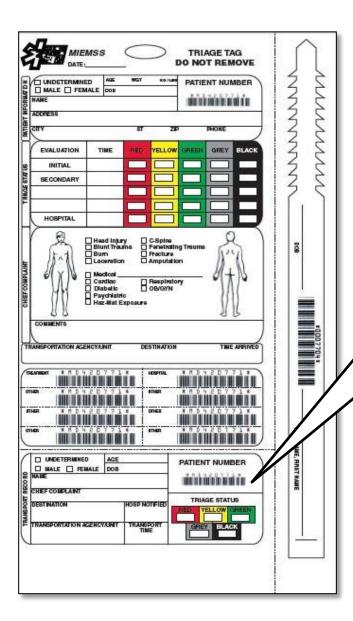
IT WILL NOT BE USED IN THE TRIAGE OF PATIENTS UNTIL APPROVED BY MIEMSS.

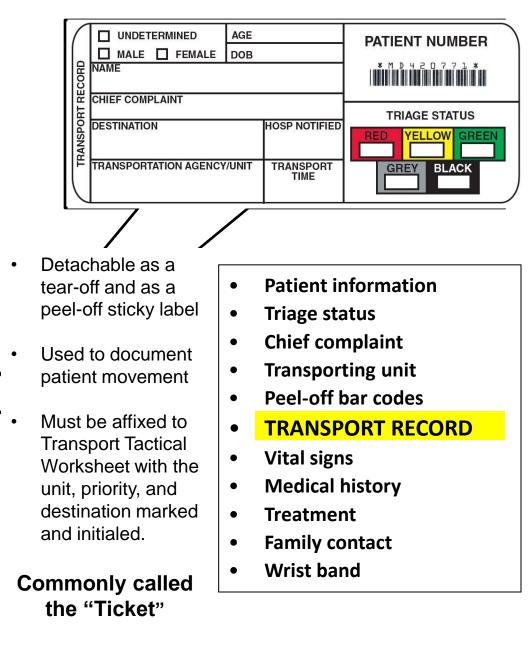
- Patient information
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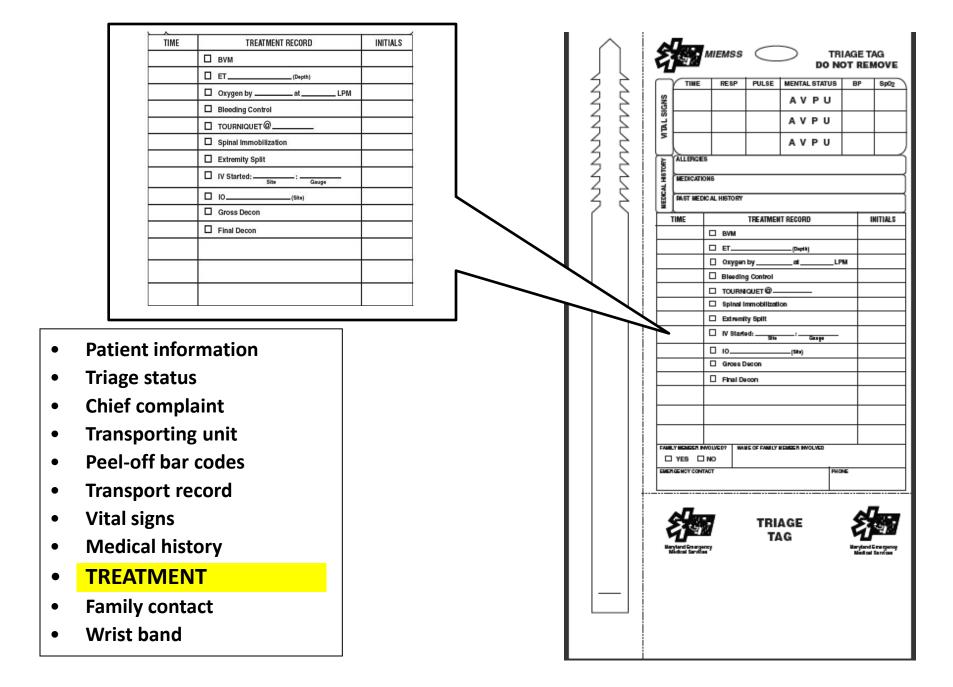


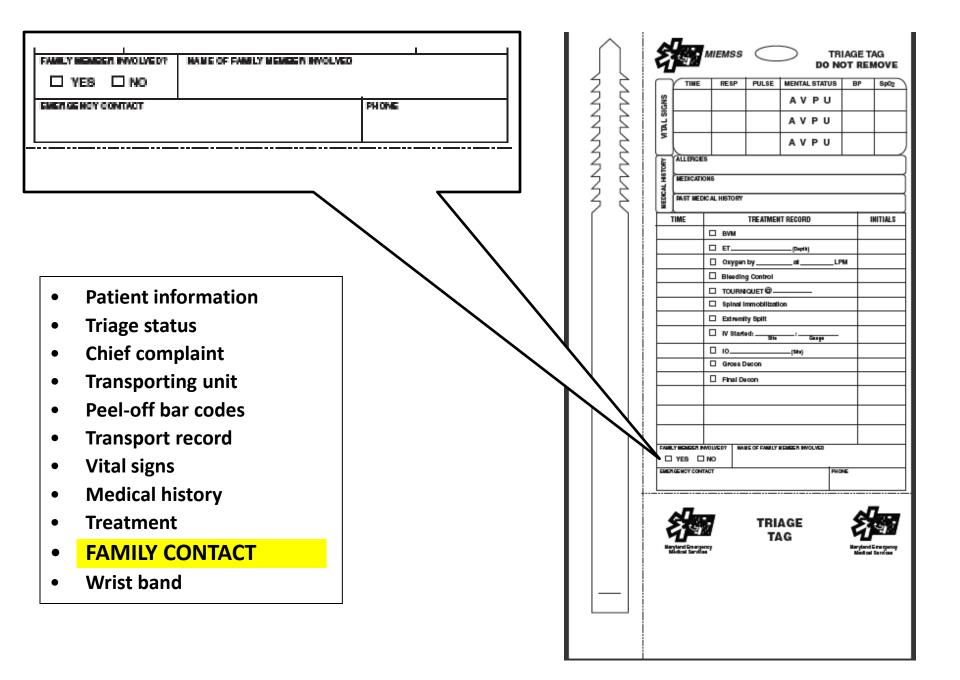


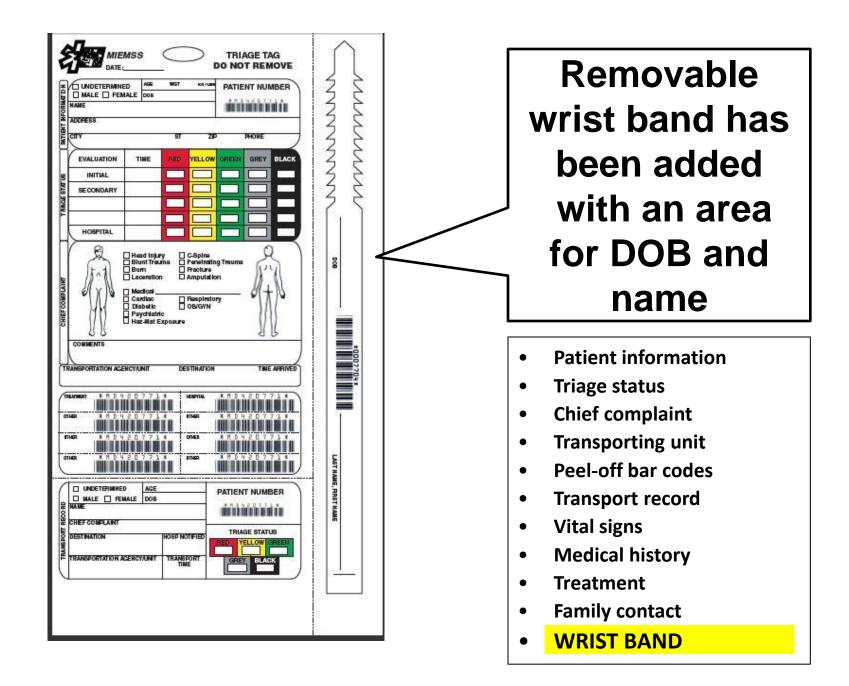


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Secondary Triage

- Generally used when there is an extended duration event
- After initial color coding triage
- Healthcare professionals who respond to the scene or PH/Hospital response teams may be utilized to further determine who gets transported from scene first



Secondary Triage

GLASGOW COMA SCORE

12 11

10 or



GLASGOW COMA SCALE TOTAL :

TOTAL GLASGOW Coma Scale	13 - 15 9 - 12 6 - 8 4 - 5 3	4 3 2 1 0	
RESPIRATORY RATE	10 - 29 30 or more 6 - 9 1 - 5 0	4 3 2 1 0	
SYSTOLIC BP	90 or more 76 - 89 50 - 75 1 - 49 0	4 3 2 1 0	- +
= PRIORITY 3 = PRIORITY 2 or less PRIORITY 1		TOTAL :	

Patient Tracking

- Document minimal information depending on your situation
 - Primary Triage
 - Very little documentation
 - Secondary Triage
 - More information
 - More assessment and treatment will be done
- Smart Tag has a command board to keep track of where the patient went.

Important Info

Remember that anyone who <u>can</u> <u>walk</u> at the scene will be tagged GREEN.

The patient <u>could deteriorate</u> or you may determine a different priority when you re-triage at the scene or the ED.

Morgue – Tagged Black

- Establish an area away from other patients
- It should be a secure area away from on-lookers, media, etc.
- Accessible for you and coroner staff
 At scene...





In The Treatment Area

- Designate someone to oversee the entire treatment area or each color depending on scale of the event
- Additional treatment can be provided in this area while awaiting transport
- Secondary triage is ongoing patients can and do deteriorate.

Pediatric Modifications for START = <u>JUMPSTART</u>

- Kids Are A Little Different
 - Expect children to be part of a disaster
 - JumpStart modified START for kids
 - Designed for children ages 1-8 y/0



Pediatric Modifications -RPMs

Respiratory effort – not breathing

- Open the airway
- If the patient starts breathing tag RED
- If apneic and no pulse tag BLACK
- If apneic with pulse try 5 rescue breaths
- If still apneic tag BLACK
- If starts breathing tag RED
- Respirations < 15 or > 45 tag RED
 Respirations 15-45 go to next step (Pulse)

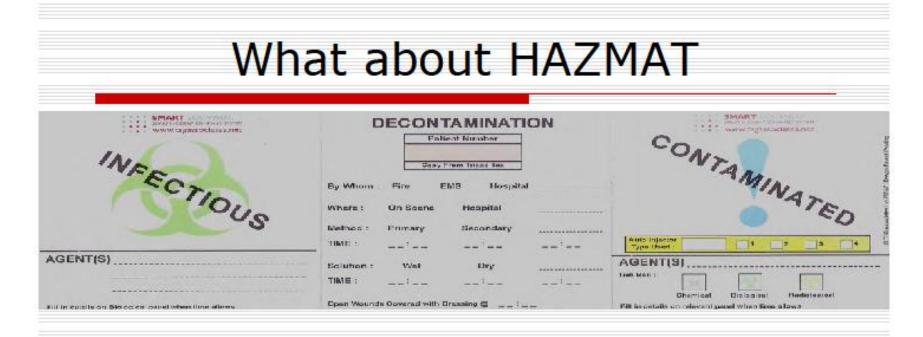


- Pulse
 - No distal pulse tag RED
 - Pulse present go to next step (Mental)
- Mental status use AVPU
 - Alert, responds to verbal or responds to pain = tag YELLOW
 - Inappropriate response, posturing or unresponsive tag RED

All Babies <u>Under 1 Year</u> Get Secondary Triage (Meaning <u>No Greens!</u>).

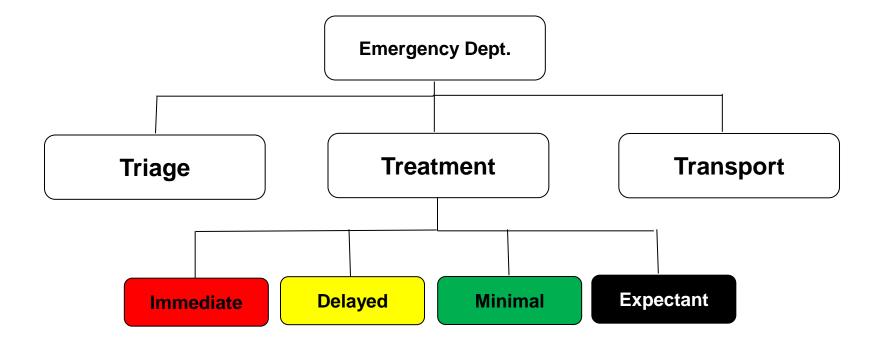


Follow JumpStart to Determine <u>Yellow</u> or <u>Red</u>.

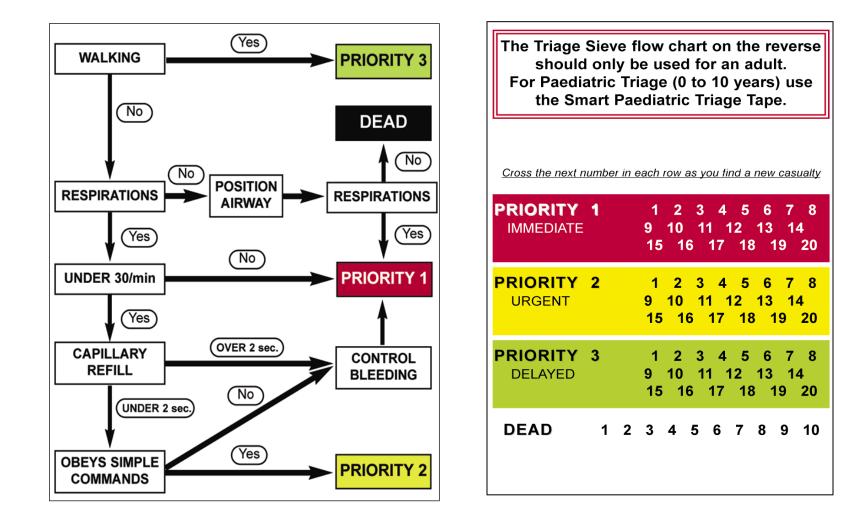


CHEMICAL AGENT	RADIOLOGICAL AGENT	BIOLOGICAL AGENT			
AGENT(S) Characteristics Non Persistent Nerve Choking Persistent Nerve Other Blister	Type : ALPHA BETA GAMMA Dose Estimation Method & Estimated Dose Clinical Contemptor @	AGENT(S) Characteristics			
Signs / Symptoms	Signs / Symptoms	Signs / Symptoms			

Incident Command System



Triage Protocol (START)



Mangled Extremity Severity Score (MESS)

Туре	Characteristics	Injury	Points
1	Low energy	stab wound, simple closed fx, small-caliber GSW	1
2	Medium energy	Open/multilevel fx, dislocation, moderate crush	2
3	High energy	shotgun, high-velocity GSW	3
4	Massive crush	Logging, railroad, oil rig accidents	4
Shoc	k Group		
1	Normotensive Transiently	BP stable	0
2	hypotensive Prolonged	BP unstable in field but responsive to flud SBP <90mmHg in field and responsive to IV fluids	1
3	hypotension	In OR	2
Ische	emia Group		
1	None	Pulsatile, no signs of ischemia	1
2	Mild	Diminished pulses without signs of ischemia No dopplerable pulse, sluggish cap refill,	2
3	Moderate	paresthesia, diminished motor activity	3
4	Advanced	Pulseless, cool, paralyzed, numb without cap refill	4
Age (Group		1 - T
1	<30y/o		0
2	>30 < 50		1

MESS score: six or less consistent with a salvageable limb. Seven or greater amputation generally the eventual result.

SAVE Triage Guidelines

- Crush Injury to Lower Extremity
 - Patients are assessed using the MESS score
 - Score of 7 or more: amputate
 - Score less than 7: attempt limb salvage

SAVE Triage Guidelines

- Head Injury (adults)
 - Use the Glascow Coma Score (GCS)
 - Score 8 or above: treat
 - Better than 50% chance of a normal or good neurologic recovery
 - Score 7 or less: comfort care only



- Burn Injury: less than 50% chance of survival
 - 70% TBSA burn
 - Age > 60 with inhalational injury
 - Age < 2 with 50% TBSA burn</p>
 - Age > 60 with 35% TBSA burn
- Comfort care only

SAVE Triage Guidelines

- Abdominal Injury
 - No data to guide evaluation
 - 4 ml/kg hypertonic saline X 2
 - If no response, comfort care only
 - Role of handheld ultrasound?

Contaminated Patients

- 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

