



RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

Triage

OBJECTIVE

Describe emergency procedures:

patient assessment, airway management, oxygen therapy, AED use, immobilization skills, patient transfers, treating shock, and triage.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

- Stay calm
- Assess the environment
- Call for help
- Obtain consent to treat the victim
- Try to determine what happened
- Practice standard precautions



BASIC PRINCIPLES

- Enlist help of bystanders
- Reassure the victim



- Don't discuss the victim's condition with observers at the scene

- Do not move the victim unless the situation is unsafe



- Don't give the victim anything to eat or drink



GOOD SAMARITAN LAW

- Protects someone who provides aid to an injured person in an emergency

Good Samaritan Law



Good Samaritan

- Law that protects rescuers from prosecution or civil law suits, unless their actions constitute willful misconduct and negligence.
 - ✓ The Rescuer **MUST** comply with proper emergency first aid and CPR guidelines; acting in good faith by being prudent and responsible in their rescue efforts.



TRIAGE

- Process of deciding which victims should be treated first based on how sick or seriously injured they are

PROPERTY ID TAG **TRIAGE TAG** **ACCIDENT LOCATION MARKER**

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Transport: _____ Age: _____
Hospital: _____
Gender: Male Female
Major Injuries: HEAD BACK
 CHEST EXTREMITIES
 ABDOMEN OTHER _____
ALLERGY: _____
Rx: _____
NOTES: _____

TRIAGE TAG

No. _____

MOVE THE WALKING WOUNDED **MINOR**
NO RESPIRATION AFTER HEAD TILT/OPA **DECEASED**
 RESPIRATIONS — OVER 30 **IMMEDIATE**
 PULSE — NO RADIAL PULSE **IMMEDIATE**
 MENTAL STATUS — UNABLE TO FOLLOW SIMPLE COMMANDS **IMMEDIATE**
OTHERWISE... **DELAYED**

Time	Pulse	B/P	Resp	<input type="checkbox"/> Awake
				<input type="checkbox"/> Verbal
				<input type="checkbox"/> Pain
				<input type="checkbox"/> Unconscious

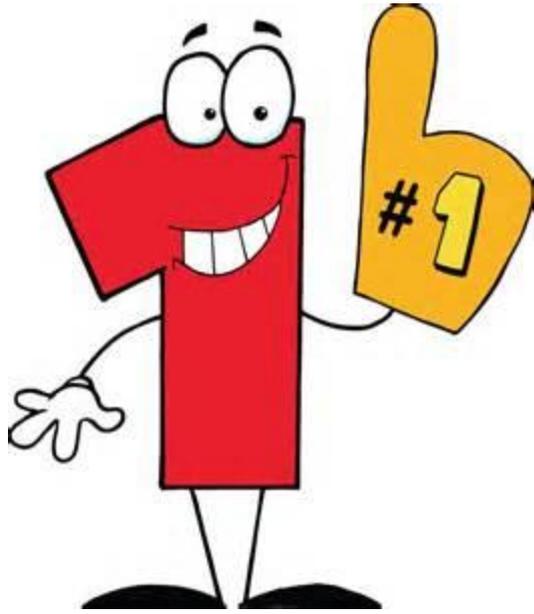
P0 DECEASED **P1 IMMEDIATE** **P2 DELAYED** **P3**

TRIAGE

- In a mass casualty incident you can't commit to "one-on-one" care
- You have to be quickly assess the victims – 30 sec or less per patient
- Very limited treatment is provided:
 1. Manually open airways
 2. Clear airway with finger sweep
 3. Control major bleeding



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.



TRIAGE

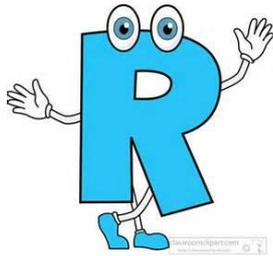
➤ Triage separates the injured into 4 groups:

1. **Immediate** (critical patient)
2. **Delayed** (serious patient that could wait until all reds have been transported)
3. **Minor** (ambulatory; minor injuries)
4. **Deceased** (expectant)



4 THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...

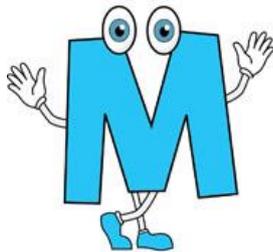
1. Ability to follow directions and walk



2. Respiratory effort



3. Pulses/perfusion



4. Mental status

BEGIN....

1. Clear out all ambulatory victims
 - ask for victims who can hear you and are able to walk, to walk toward you
 - Once they walk toward you – designate a place for them to go & have someone tag them **green**
2. Rest of the patients require **MORE** triage –
3. 3 steps, assess:
 - **R** (respiratory effort)
 - **P** (pulses/perfusion)
 - **M** (mental)

They will be tagged **red**, **yellow**, or **black**



STEP 1: RESPIRATORY EFFORT

- If victim is not breathing— manually open their airway
- If they start breathing = tag **RED**
- If they don't start breathing = tag **BLACK**
- If victim is breathing >30 or <10 = tag **RED**
- If victim is breathing normal 10-30 = go to step 2



STEP 2: PULSES/PERFUSION

- Check for **radial** pulse or capillary refill
- If radial pulse absent or cap refill >2 seconds = tag **RED**
- If radial pulse present or cap refill < 2 seconds = go to step 3



STEP 3: MENTAL STATUS

- Assess whether or not the victim can follow a simple command, say to the victim: “Squeeze my hand”
- If the victim **can** follow a simple command = tag **YELLOW**
- If the victim **cannot** follow a simple command = tag **RED**



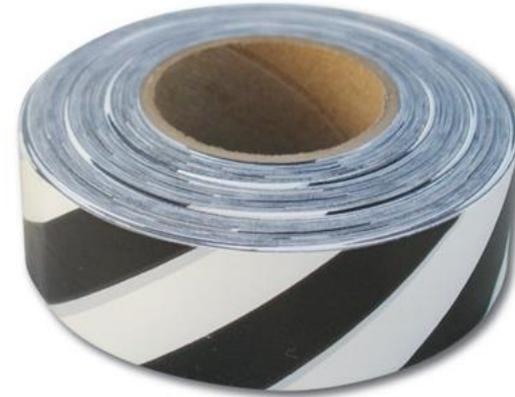
TREATMENT AREA

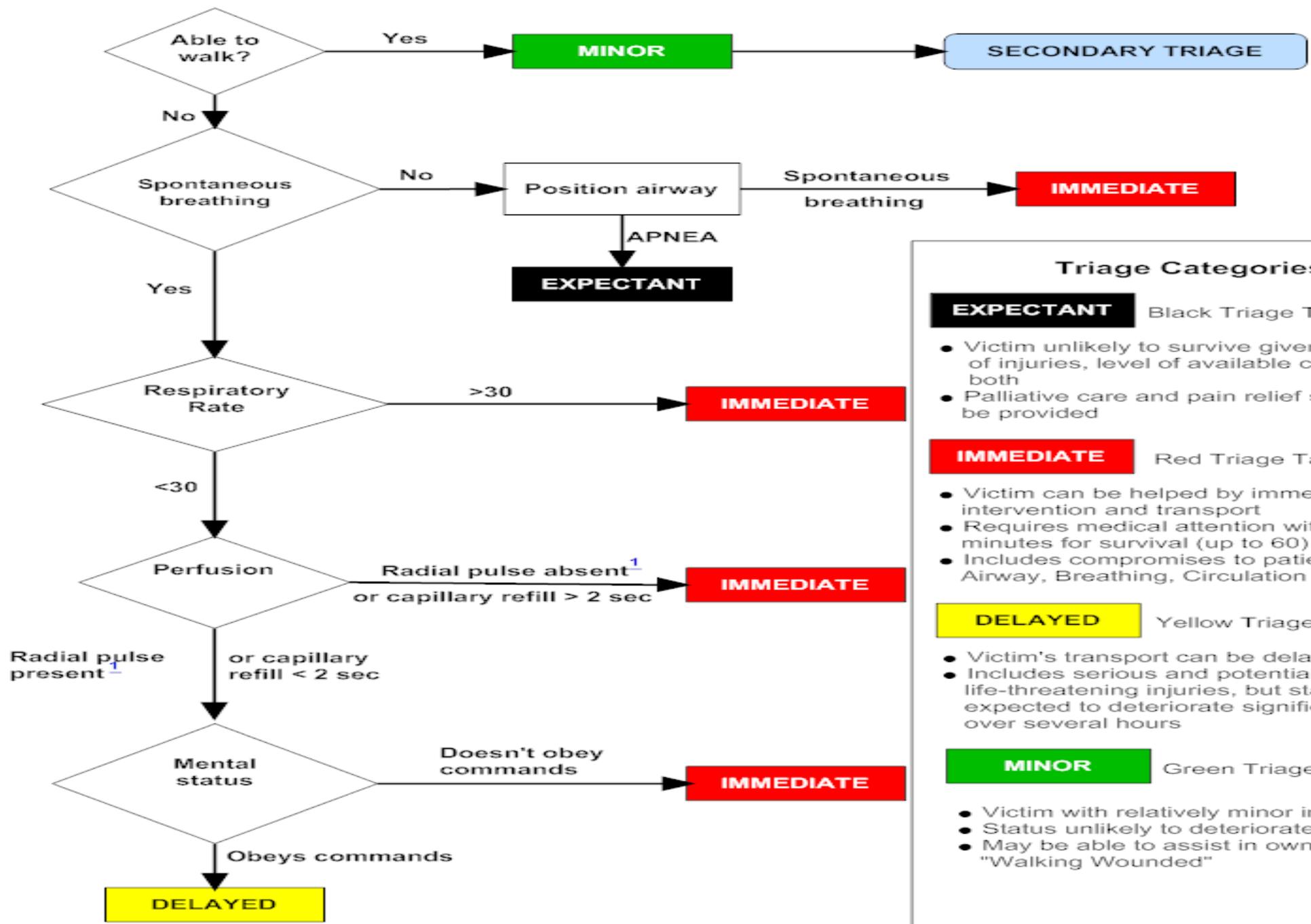
- Patients should be separated as tagged



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





Triage Categories

- EXPECTANT** Black Triage Tag Color
 - Victim unlikely to survive given severity of injuries, level of available care, or both
 - Palliative care and pain relief should be provided
- IMMEDIATE** Red Triage Tag Color
 - Victim can be helped by immediate intervention and transport
 - Requires medical attention within minutes for survival (up to 60)
 - Includes compromises to patient's Airway, Breathing, Circulation
- DELAYED** Yellow Triage Tag Color
 - Victim's transport can be delayed
 - Includes serious and potentially life-threatening injuries, but status not expected to deteriorate significantly over several hours
- MINOR** Green Triage Tag Color
 - Victim with relatively minor injuries
 - Status unlikely to deteriorate over days
 - May be able to assist in own care: "Walking Wounded"

SCENARIO

You are assigned the duty of triage officer at a local factory where an explosion has taken place due to a gas leak. Utility workers have turned off power and gas at this time and the scene is safe.

There are 435 workers at the site and many were in the area of the explosion.



SCENARIO

The following patients (#1 thru #5) are involved in the worksite explosion.

Looking around, you visualize 40 – 50 workers involved.

You begin the triage process...

PATIENT #1

According to the triage protocol, when you assess pulses, you would check:

- A) Radial Pulses
- B) Pedal Pulses
- C) Femoral Pulses
- D) Carotid Pulses



PATIENT #1

A) Radial Pulses

NOTE: Checking peripheral pulses would give you an idea of BP. The presence of a radial pulse would mean a BP systolic BP of 80-90 range



PATIENT #2



You notice this patient is not breathing, you would

- A) Tag Black and rapidly go to next patient
- B) Tag Red, hopefully that he will begin to breath shortly,
- C) Don't waste time with tagging process and proceed to next patient.
- D) Open the Airway, tag Red if he starts to breath.

PATIENT #2

D) Open the Airway, tag Red if he starts to breath.

Note: If victim does not start to breath, tag black and & move to next victim



PATIENT #3

The next patient is a 50 y/o welder with partial amputation of RLE at the ankle. RR 28/min, no radial pulses are noted.

- A) Tag Black
- B) Tag Red
- C) Tag Yellow
- D) Tag Green



PATIENT #3

B) Tag Red

NOTE: Victim is not ambulatory, breathing is good, but absent radial pulse confirms RED



PATIENT #4

The next patient is a 36 year old pipe fitter with fracture of the humerus. He is in pain, but no other obvious distress or injury noted. He rates pain of 8/10 when prompted. You would anticipate:

- A) Tag Black
- B) Tag Red
- C) Tag Yellow
- D) Tag Green



PATIENT #4

D) Tag Green

NOTE: as long as he can walk, he would be rated a green. If unable for any reason, he would become a YELLOW



PATIENT #5

The next patient is a 42 y/o fabricator with fracture of tib/fib with deformity. He is in severe pain 10/10. RR 34, Radial pulse 120.

You would tag:

- A) Tag Black
- B) Tag Red
- C) Tag Yellow
- D) Tag Green



PATIENT #5

B) Tag Red

Rationale: victim unable to walk, RR>30

