trı·age

Pronunciation: trE-'äzh

Function: noun

Etymology: French, sorting, sifting, from trier to sort, from Old French

: the sorting of and allocation of treatment to patients and especially battle and disaster victims according to a system of priorities designed to maximize the number of survivors
Triage Tags should be placed in the passenger side door pocket of the ambulance or rescue squad. This shall facilitate quick access to the tags in multiple patient settings.

When arriving at known multiple patient events or at calls with the potential for multiple victims (i.e., injury accidents), secure the tags before exiting the vehicle.

Triage Tags should be used on all calls involving 3 or more patients.

The general placement location for the tags should be on one of the patient’s arms.

When a triage tag has been utilized, remember to document the tag number in the history portion of your run report.
SAFETY FIRST – Scene Security

- The Disaster Management Systems – All Risk Triage Tag is designed to prompt first responders to consider scene safety and contamination hazards. For this reason, the Tag has been designed with a “CONTAMINATED” strip affixed to the side of the Tag.

The CONTAMINATED strip has 3 main functions…

- **First**, it is designed to prompt the first responder to consider the possibility of hazardous contaminants. If none, simply remove the tab.

- **Second**, it is designed to identify contaminated victims prior to decontamination. The tab is removed from the victim when the clothing is removed and the tab is placed with the clothing in a clear plastic bag.

- **Third**, the tab is designed to identify possible contaminated evidence for law enforcement personnel.
HAZMAT CONSIDERATIONS

Contamination Hazard

NO

Remove Contaminated Strip

Initiate START Triage

Treatment / Tracking / Transportation
HAZMAT CONSIDERATIONS

Contamination Hazard

YES

Initiate START Triage
Primary Decon

Strip & Bag Evidence
Tag Patients

Initiate Secondary Decon

Secondary Triage
Move to Tx / Transport

Treat Symptomatic Patients
As Needed
Patient Triage – START Triage

Patients should be triaged utilizing the START triage system. START stands for Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment.

The START system is based upon three simple parameters.

- **Respirations** (> or < 30 per minute)
- **Perfusion** (Capillary Refill > or < 2 seconds)
- **Mental Status** (Follow simple commands)

The START triage selection process can be found on the back side of the Triage Tag. The rescuer will check the appropriate boxes that correspond to the patient’s condition.

Mnemonic: **30 – 2 – CAN DO**
At the bottom of the Triage Tag are perforated colored tear off tabs that corresponds to the patients triage category.

These tabs are perforated both horizontally and vertically.

During triage, the rescuer will tear off and retain (from the right tab row) the appropriate triage category for each patient.

Following the triage process, these tabs will be gathered to assist in determining:

- overall patient count
- transport priority
- resource allocation
Patient Injury / Decontamination

On the front of the Triage Tag is a section for indicating primary and secondary decon. There is also a box for charting the solution utilized in decontamination.

There is a section for checking off major injury categories as well as an anatomical (front / rear) figure to allow the rescuer to illustrate areas of injury, gender, and age.

The Radiological, Biological, and Chemical symbols are utilized to identify the type of agent(s) the patient may have been exposed to.
Patient Vital Signs & Treatment

On the front of the Triage Tag is a section for indicating the patient’s vital signs and drug / IV therapy.

There is also a section for charting signs / symptoms of Nerve Agent exposure utilizing the SLUDGEM acronym.

Nerve Agent antidote therapy can also be charted in this section with boxes available to chart the drug type (Atropine / 2Pam) and boxes 1 through 3 to chart the number of times each drug was given.
Personal Property Tab

The Personal Property Receipt is utilized when clothing, jewelry, and other personal items are removed from the patient during the decontamination process.

The Personal Property Receipt should be placed in a clear plastic sealable bag which contains the patients personal belongings.

This allows for the return of property to the rightful owner after ensuring all items have been decontaminated.

The personal property receipt can be tracked by number or bar code.
On the back side of the Triage Tag is an area for documenting patient personal information.

NOTE: All tear off tabs are printed with identification numbers and associated bar codes which allows for the seamless tracking of patients through triage, treatment, transport, and the hospital phase of patient care.

At the top of the front side of the Triage Tag is a tear-off tab that is utilized for tracking hospital destination and transport mode.
This Triage Tag Training Manual is based upon the Triage Tag Student Manual written by Darryl Cleveland for Disaster Management Systems, Inc.

Other WMD/NBC Training Programs can be found at SC-EMS.com

The All Risk Triage Tag and other disaster management supplies can be found at TriageTags.com

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