Triage

- Prioritizing patients in a multiple casualty incident
    - Who gets treatment first?
    - Who gets transported to a hospital first?
    - Quick communication about scope of incident

- The triage system we use is called START:
  Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment
    - Developed in 1983 in Newport Beach, CA
    - Widely used throughout the US

Triage Categories

MINOR	No field treatment needed
DELAYED	Treatment needed but no life threat
IMMEDIATE	Treatment needed for life threat
DECEASED	Dead or non-salvageable

Triage Procedure

1. On entry to the incident scene, call for anyone who can walk to you. "If you can hear my voice, come to me."
   - These are your MINOR patients
   - These are people you can draw on for untrained help

2. Visit each remaining patient, starting with the one closest to you and following an orderly pattern.
   - Evaluate and categorize them
   - Mark them with a triage marking
   - Direct your untrained help to provide specific treatment
   - No more than 60 seconds per patient (30 is better)

3. Report your findings, with counts of each category.

Triage Markings

- Triage tags
- Colored ribbons
- Writing on skin:
  M = MINOR
  D = DELAYED.
  I = IMMEDIATE
  X = DECEASED

If you write on skin, be consistent about where you write.

Examples of Triage Tags and Ribbons
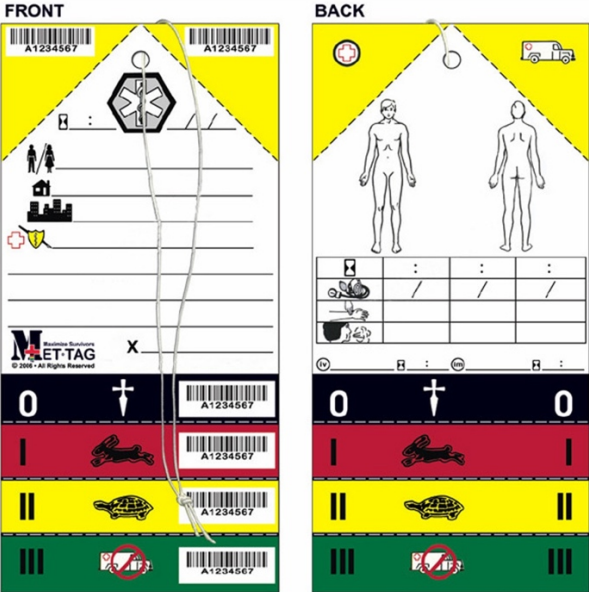
Triage Evaluation: RPM

We check for three things, by the acronym **RPM**:

Respiration: are they breathing, and not too fast?
Pulse: do they have a radial pulse? Capillary refill?
Mental Status: can they follow simple commands?

R: <30/minute
P: Radial pulse present, or *capillary refill <2 seconds
M: Alert, can follow simple commands

*Capillary refill is when you press on the fingernail or the webbing between the thumb and forefinger, the skin blanches then in <2 seconds should return to normal color.

If any of the above are abnormal, then the patient is in the **Immediate** category.

Triage Flow Chart

All walking wounded are **Minor "M"**

| Breathing? | <30/min → | Radial Pulse / Cap. Refill? | Yes / <2 sec. → | Follow Simple Commands? | Yes → | **DELAYED** |

No ↓   >30/min ↓   No / >2 sec. ↓   No ↓

Reposition

Breathing? — Yes →

IMMEDIATE

Have bystander maintain open airway.

IMMEDIATE

If bleeding, apply tourniquet or have bystander hold direct pressure

IMMEDIATE

Have bystander treat for shock

No ↓

DECEASED