METTAGS
START Triage
Jump START Triage
METTAG

California State Fire Chiefs’ Association Triage Tag
METTAG Minor/Green

Ambulatory patients with minor complaints.

Examples: Closed fractures
Abrasions with bleeding controlled
METTAG Delayed/Yellow

Patients with significant injury who will require further care but, whose injuries are unlikely to result in immediate loss of life or limb.

Examples: Non-ambulatory patients
Isolated femur fracture or dislocation
Mild chest or abdominal pain with normal vital signs
Possible neck or back injuries without neurological deficit
History of loss of consciousness with normal mental status
METTAG Immediate/Red

Patients who are critically ill but are potentially salvageable if given top priority for treatment and transport.

Examples:
- Respiratory distress
- Shock
- Altered mental status
- Multi-system trauma
- Severe chest or abdominal pain or tenderness
- Suspected spinal cord injury
- Open fractures with vascular compromise
- Significant burns
METTAG Deceased/Black

Patients who are dead or have no reasonable chance of survival despite airway intervention.
START
Triage
Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment

"Walk, 30-2, can do."
Scenario #1

An adult and a child are bicycling down a hill when they lose control and go over an embankment, landing on the road.

A car with four passengers swerves to avoid the bicycle and runs into a tree on the rear passenger’s side.

One person laying in the dirt and the four passengers of the car are visible.
START Triage Examples

Patient #1
Rear passenger on driver’s side of car
28 year old found trying to help the driver out of the car
Ambulatory- states he/she feels slightly sick to his/her stomach but “I’ll be okay.”

Minor/Green
START Triage Examples

Patient #2
Driver of car
65 year old with chest pain starting shortly after the crash
Unable to walk- he/she’s “too shaky”
Normal Breathing but..
Respirations 28 per min.- “I feel a little short of breath.”
Normal circulation with cap refill <2 sec.- skin feels slightly clammy to touch
Normal mental status
Delayed/Yellow
START Triage  Examples

Patient #3
Front passenger of car
62 year old who hit head on side of door windshield during impact with tree
Unable to walk- patient is unconscious
Normal Breathing
Respirations 26 per min.
Normal circulation- a large laceration across patient’s right temple with profuse bleeding
Unable to follow commands
Immediate/Red
START Triage

Examples

Patient #4
Rear, passenger’s side of car
9 year old trapped in car
Unable to walk- patient complains of severe pain in his/her right leg and you notice a laceration over his/her thigh which is pumping bright red blood everywhere
Normal breathing
Respirations are 24 per min.
No cap refill in right foot- the foot is white and cool to the touch
Normal mental status
Immediate/Red
Jump START Triage

*Used in children shorter than the NPS Pediatric Resuscitation Tape or Broselow tape, generally about age 8.
Jump START Triage Examples

Patient #5
Rear Passenger on Bicycle
4 year old hit by front bumper of the car and then dragged under car
Unable to walk- patient is unconscious
Not breathing
No return of spontaneous respiration with airway opening
Positive palpable pulse- a faint carotid pulse is felt
After 15 sec. of CPR there is NO return of spontaneous respirations
Deceased/Black
START Triage Examples

Patient #6
Driver of Bicycle
34 year old adult hit by the front bumper of the car and thrown into woods (hidden from view)
Unable to walk- patient is dazed and confused, and has several leg deformities (both feet have weak pulses)
Unable to breath- patient has severe facial trauma and is gurgling and gasping
Breathing returns with airway opening
Immediate/Red
Table Top Scenario #1

An adult and a child are bicycling down a hill when they lose control and go over an embankment, landing on the road.

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