

SALT TRIAGE SYSTEM: What the Receiving Facility Needs to Know....

The SALT (Sort, Assess, Life-Saving Intervention, Treatment/Transport) triage system was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reduce triage time and to better utilize resources. This system has been adopted by pre-hospital providers in the Greater Dayton area as a standardized triage system to be used in the event of a mass casualty incident (MCI). This document will serve as an overview of the SALT triage system and will attempt to facilitate understanding of this method for receiving facilities.

RED – Immediate. Patients are critically injured and require immediate intervention to sustain viability. Patients may require more resources on arrival. Examples of these types of patients may include inhalation burns, neurologically decompensating patients with traumatic brain injuries, pericardial tamponade, and pneumothorax patients.

YELLOW – Delayed. These patients still have serious medical problems, but are expected to survive until definitive care can be rendered later. Examples include gunshot wounds to abdomen with stable vital signs, major fractures requiring ORIF, and spinal cord injuries with acceptable vital signs.

GREEN – Minimal. These patients are “the walking wounded”. They may have sustained injuries such as ankle sprains or even closed fractures of lesser bones, but are not suffering from life threats.

GRAY – Expectant (not dead, but expected to not survive given current circumstances). These patients might include TBI with exposed brain, 90% TBSA burns, and the like. These patients may be later re-triaged and re-classified if resources change.

BLACK – Patient is deceased (black/white stripes used for low light situations).

ORANGE - used in addition to one of the above ribbons to indicate victim has been contaminated with a hazardous material. These are to be removed after decontamination and the orange box on the triage tag checked. EMS should always inform the hospital of any patient that has been contaminated or decontaminated.



