

# **Appendix 6**

# **START Triage Plan**

# S.T.A.R.T. Triage Plan

## Step 1:

The initial medical responder enters the incident area, identifies himself and directs all the victim who can walk to gather and remain at a patient staging area. This identifies victims who have sufficient respiratory, circulatory, mental, and motor function to walk. Most of these victims will be triaged green. Do not tag them now. Triage them separately later.

## Step 2:

Evaluate non-ambulatory victims where they present. Assess respiration. Is it normal, rapid or absent? If absent, reposition the airway to see if spontaneous respiration begins. If respiration is absent, tag black. Do not perform CPR. If the victim requires help in maintaining an open airway or has a respiration rate over 30 per minute, tag red. (Attempt to use non-EMS person to hold the airway). If respiration is normal (less than 30 per minute), go to next step.

## Step 3:

Assess the victim's perfusion by testing capillary or palpating a radial pulse. If the capillary refill is over 2 seconds or the radial pulse is absent but a carotid pulse is present, tag red. If the capillary refill is less than 2 seconds or if the radial pulse is present, go to the next step. Any life threatening bleeding should be controlled now and elevate the victims legs to begin shock treatment. (Again, attempt to use non-EMS person to maintain pressure or bleeding site).

## Step 4:

Assess victim's mental status. If the victim has not demonstrated he can follow simple commands, ask him to perform a simple task. If he cannot follow simple commands, tag red. If the victim can follow simple commands, tag yellow or green depending upon condition. The victim's injuries will determine the color.