

Module: Public Health Disaster Planning for Districts

Organization: East Africa HEALTH Alliance, 2009-2012

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Resource Title: Session 2.2: Mass Casualty Incidents

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Mass Casualty Incidents



DFID - UK Department for International Development, flickr

Compiled By The Eastern Africa Disaster Management Training Task Force
Narrated by Dr. Roy William Mayega

Part A: MASS CASUALTY INCIDENTS (MCIs)

Introduction/Definition

- Any incident where the number of injured overwhelm the capabilities of the first arriving unit(s)
- Usually involve trauma but could be acute radiation, biological weapons, or poisoning from alcohol etc.
- Road traffic injuries, collapsed buildings, are occurring every day



 United Nations Photo, flickr

Introduction

- Three things are important in lessening injuries and deaths:
 - Immediate search and Rapid Triage
 - Immediate First Aid Treatment
 - Transport to the nearest medical centre



 cisc1970, flickr



Story 1: The Bus Collision

- Let a volunteer read for us Story 1 in the introductory part of this session
- **Challenge:**
 - *What things went wrong in this scenario?*

At the Incident

- Be composed; search and rescue should be done methodically
- STOP,LOOK,LISTEN,AND THINK.
- CALL FOR HELP!
- Choose a team leader
- Usually security personnel are needed to secure the incident site (Zone 1 or Ground Zero)
- Wear protective gadgets- gloves, helmet
- Select a medical incident commander to manage: Triage, Treatment and Transport (3Ts)

Equipped Ambulance

- Some ambulances are able to sustain lives that require advanced support
- Call for ambulances



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TRIAGE

- A French term meaning pick and sort (select and categorize)
- It involves:
 - Classifying victims in order to assign priorities for medical care and transportation
 - Urgency of the case handling to increase victims' likelihood of survival
- The aim is to provide greatest good for the greatest number of people injured

Triage Categories

- Uses agreed colors to communicate amongst personnel
- Triage ribbons or cards are used (tied to an arm and clearly visible)
- It tells intervention teams the priority level with which to handle each affected person



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Umschattiger, Wikimedia Commons

The Triage Card

Notes:

Allergies:

Prescriptive Medication:

Personal Information

Name:

Address:

City: St: Zip: Phone:

Male _____ Female _____ Age: Weight:

DECEASED

IMMEDIATE

DELAYED

MINOR

PRINTED IN CHINA

PD-INEL Source Unknown

Triage Categories



Red Coded

- First priority should be given to them
- Immediate care should be started
- They have a compromised airway, or are in shock



 PD-INEL Source Unknown

Yellow Coded

- Second priority
- Urgent care is needed
- They can deteriorate to Red category in a short time
- Impending shock



Green Coded

- Third category
- Walking wounded
- Care can come later
- However, need monitoring for any signs of deterioration



 Source Unknown

Black Coded

- Either dead or hopelessly wounded
- They should not take priority time and resources
- Concentrate on those that can be saved



 Source Unknown

How to Triage

- Begin by assessing all non-moving patients where they lie



Start Triage

- S-imple
 - T-riage
 - A-nd
 - R-apid
 - T-reatment
-
- Can be performed by any individual including non-health workers
-
- Because of scarcity of manpower, all who can should participate

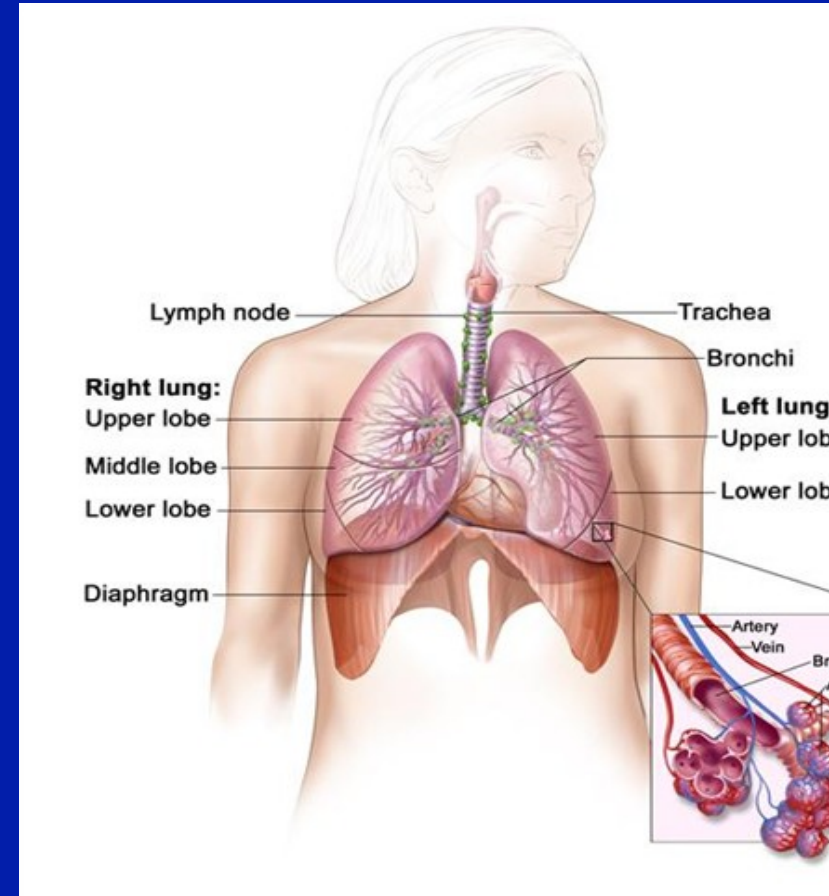
Triage Techniques

- Consider:
 - Respiration:
 - Are they breathing?
 - Breaths per minute
 - Blood Circulation
 - Is there a pulse?
 - Perfusion of blood into the tissues
 - Consciousness
 - Are they conscious?
 - Mental status

Take less than one minute per patient!!!!

RESPIRATION

- If none, open airway,
- Still none = Label as black
- If restored= label as red
- If present breathing rate:
Is above 30=red
Is below 30=check blood circulation (Perfusion)



 National Cancer Institute, Wikimedia Commons

BLOOD CIRCULATION

- Is the same as PERFUSION
- If Radial pulse-nil or
Capillary refill greater than 2
seconds=Label as RED
- If Radial pulse –present or
Capillary refill less than or = 2
seconds – Check mental status



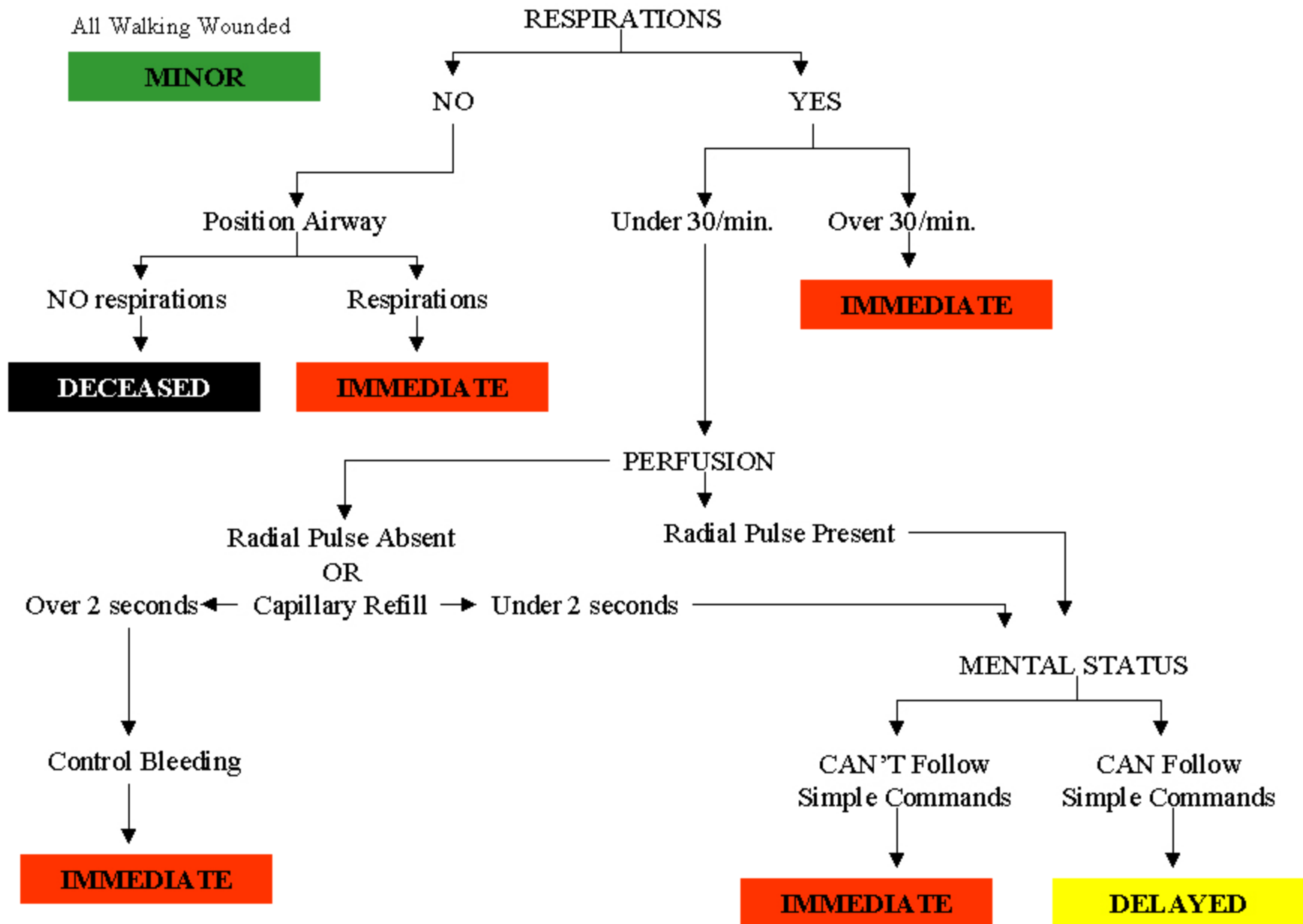
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MENTAL STATUS



 starbooze, flickr

- Can't follow simple commands (unconscious/ altered LOC)=Label as RED
- CAN FOLLOW simple commands= Label as Yellow or Green



Summary

- Triage is the single most important decision involving management of mass casualty incidences
- Triage evaluation involves Airway and breathing, Circulation and mental status
- **The Triage teams hand over the serious cases to the First Aid Treatment Teams**
- Medical facilities are encouraged to develop Mass casualty plans for their facilities based on operating capacity and resources
- District committees and local authorities should identify key players in Search and Rescue and in First Aid

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