



Triage & Emergency Communications

“Triage” was a medical term used since WWI. It means “to sort” or to prioritize:

- urgent, highest priority
- delayed, still priority
- minor

Think “tri”: 3 major categories.

NIMS uses 4 basic categories, used by US medical teams, veterinarians, emergency responders and FEMA volunteers:

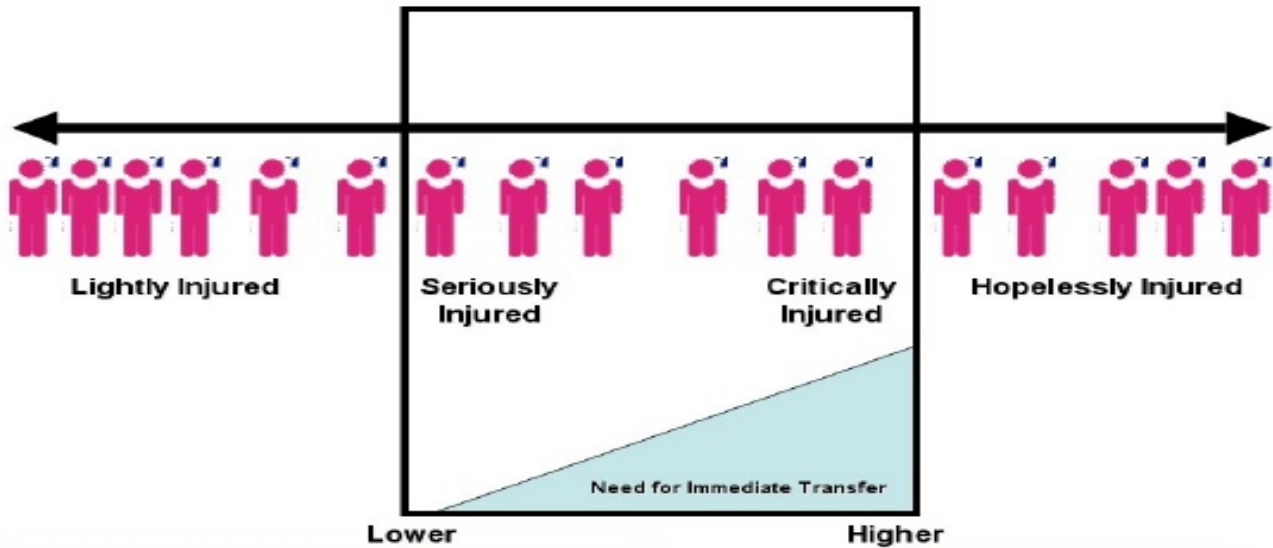
Triage



- Immediate (I): Victim has life-threatening injuries (airway, bleeding, or shock)
- Delayed (D): Injuries do not jeopardize victim’s life; treatment can be delayed
- Minor (M): Walking wounded and generally ambulatory
- Dead (DEAD): No respiration after two attempts to open airway

There is a 4th category. It is for those either beyond help, or beyond help *given disaster conditions*.

Triage focuses resources and personnel where they can achieve *the greatest good for the greatest number.*



Or, to put it another way:



Using triage in amateur radio disaster messaging

Triage simply gives us guidelines for separating what **must** be done **now** from what can wait until later.

At right, **businesses** use it to categorize severity levels of **computer data leaks**.



We all use it on our **To-Do** lists.

In a disaster, amateur radio operators may

- **read** triage abbreviations in a transmissions log (**I, D, M & D**)
- **hear** the terms on the air
- use it for messages:
 - sort traffic for **transmission**
 - convey **clear, concise messages**
 - ♦ **on air**
 - ♦ **on forms** (ICS 309)

Note:

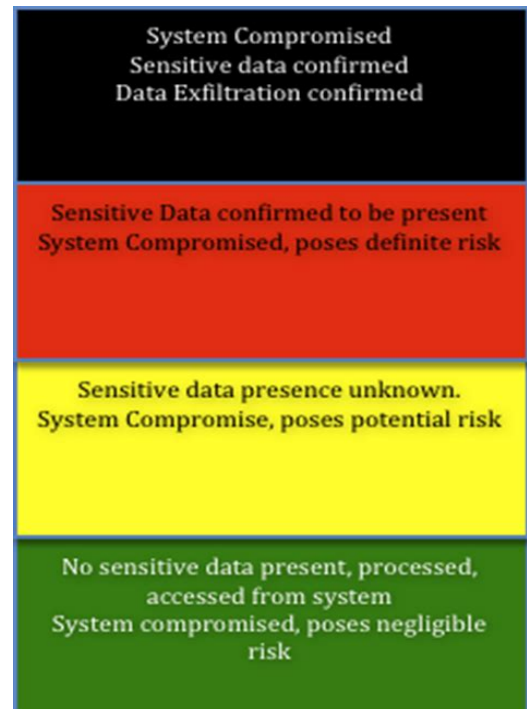
Since “**D**” is repeated in different colors, what should we use for **messages** that are comparatively **low priority** during a **disaster situation** with lots of traffic and limited resources?

The UK uses a slightly different 5-color system (Manchester Triage Scale) where **Blue means needs attention but is Non-Urgent**.

Some groups in the US also use **Blue** for **Non-Urgent** as a category just *before* black or *in place of* black. **White** is also used, but difficult to see on white paper or computer.

Would **blue** work for Auxiliary Communications for **Non-Urgent** messages?

We might try I, D, M & NU.



Manchester Triage Scale (UK):

TRIAGE GROUPS: *What do they mean?*

1	MOST URGENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious Accidents and Injury • Heart Stopped Beating • Stopped Breathing 	
2	VERY URGENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chest Pain • Trouble Breathing • Really badly broken Bones 	
3	URGENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asthma/ Stomach Pains • Temperatures over 40°C • Sick babies less than 3 months 	
4	LESS URGENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs Stitches • Broken Ankle or Arm • Sore ear, Throat or Eye 	
5	NOT URGENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of Stitches • Getting a Prescription • A Medical Certificate 	

Approved by Murray Davies

This is an initiative of the
'Closing the Gap - Innovation'
in Emergency Departments Project



Acknowledgment of Working Party
This poster was adapted with permission from the Improving Services and Referral Systems for
Aboriginal People in Kempsey Committee, comprising of staff from Dumfries AMS and MNCJHD.



Health
Mid North Coast
Local Health District
Quality and Excellence in Regional Healthcare

ER/Triage/Trauma – Denali:

Categories and Identification in Veterinary Triage

Group	Color	Type of Injuries
Priority 1 / Emergent	Red	Critical; may survive if simple lifesaving measures are applied.
Priority 2 / Urgent	Yellow	Likely to survive if simple care is given within hours.
Priority 3 / Nonurgent	Green	Minor injuries; care may be delayed while other patients receive treatment.
Priority 2 or 3	Blue	Catastrophic: Patients unlikely to survive or those who need extensive care within minutes.
None	Black	Dead or severely injured and not expected to survive.

For our Exercise, let's use I, D, M & NU.

Exercise

SCENARIO:

A major winter storm has hit early in November, with winds gusting to 90 mph. Damage to roads and buildings is extensive. Some areas are flooded.

You have tuned into W7CLA. COML informs everyone that a higher-than-usual number of injuries have been reported. COML directs all stations assess damage in the neighborhoods – through their simplex nets – and report back during roll call at the top of the hour.

You switch to your simplex area net. Get your 309 forms ready (whether or not you're net control, it's good to have them there.) On your simplex net, the messages listed below come in.

1. RECORD THE MESSAGES IN THE CLEAREST, MOST CONCISE WAY. TRIAGE YOUR WORDS.

2. THEN "TRIAGE" – PRIORITIZE - THEM FOR ORDER OF TRANSMISSION. I, D, M, NU

MESSAGES:

There's major flooding from 12th and Elm to 6th and Juniper.

A man at Maple and 15th is alone in his house. A 75-foot tree fell across his roof, blocking his exits. He can't get out. He's in phone contact with one of the people on the simplex net. But, his electricity's out, so he won't be able to recharge his phone. He has some food and water, but will need his prescriptions refilled in 4 days. He has a gas heater. He's about 64.

A woman in her 30s and her six-year-old son are trapped in the 2nd story of their townhouse at Elm and 7th. All their food and necessities are on the first floor, where there's 2 feet of water. They have no electricity. They are not injured.

A couple in their 50s outside town at milepost 22 are in touch by phone with a member of the simplex net. They have no simplex net where they live. They need help rescuing their farm animals. They have 2 horses and 5 goats trapped in a small barn and the roof has collapsed on them. A couple of the animals may be injured but they are all alive. Their house is OK. They have no injuries and have a generator.

On Fir, just past 8th, an 18-year-old boy is trapped in his vehicle by a fallen power pole, which is sparking. He's OK. The road is under about 6" of water.

Between Elm and Fir on 13th, a 70-year-old woman lives alone in a house. She's diabetic. She was home when the storm began. Neighbors saw her lights on. Now, the electricity's off and no one's been able to reach her by phone or by knocking on her door.

EMRG-501

ICS 309 Communications Log

Version: 1.2

Emergency Measures Radio Group

Classification: PUBLIC

Communications Log Record Communications & Major Events	TASK #: ?	FOR PERIOD: 3-7-21 TO: 3-7-21
OPERATIONAL PERIOD #: 9:30am - 11am	TASK NAME: AuxComm	Meeting & training
RADIO OPERATOR: Caren KE7OHV	LOG KEEPER: KE7OHV	STATION CALL SIGN: KE7OHV

	TIME (Local)	STAT TO	ION ID FROM	SUBJECT
NU 1	10:00 am	W7CLA	KE7OHV	Couple (40's), Hemlock/10th, NO injuries, elec. Car won't start.
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
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EXAMPLE

EMRG-501

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OPERATIONAL PERIOD #:		TASK NAME:	
RADIO OPERATOR:		LOG KEEPER:	STATION CALL SIGN:

	TIME	STAT	ION ID	
	(Local)	TO	FROM	SUBJECT
1				
2				
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4				
5				
6				
7				
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9				
10				
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