Trends in Triaging

A Random Survey of Triage Tags Used in the United States

AFTER COMPLETING a random survey of the types of triage tags used throughout the U S , EMERGENCY PRODUCT NEWS discovered that a wide variety of tags are presently being employed by the nation's emergency medical workers The following synopsis of our findings describes many of the features designed into the tags along with what emergency personnel look for in a triage tag

Triaging is defined as the sorting out and classifying of casualties in a disaster to determine treatment priority To help medical personnel easily recognize a patient's medical condition the triage tag is used by a triage team to indicate which patients must be treated immediately and which patients will not suffer if treatment is delayed

In conducting the random survey sampling, EMERGENCY PRODUCT NEWS discovered that many areas either do not have or have not found a triage tag that adequately provides for their disaster needs Many organizations are experimenting with different types of tags and some who have not found a tag that suits their needs have designed their own

Triage tags currently in use in this country run the gamut from simply designed tags which indicate only basic patient information to more elaborate tags which provide space for more specific patient information and the type of medical assistance rendered at the scene Even within the same state, county or municipality however a common triage tag is often not used Determining the type of triage tag an emergency organization will use usually comes after many