

# MASS CASUALTY INCIDENTS

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TRAINING FOR CERT

# WHAT IS A MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT?

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An event that overwhelms the local healthcare system, where the number of casualties vastly exceeds the local resources and capabilities in a short period of time.



# GOAL OF RESCUERS

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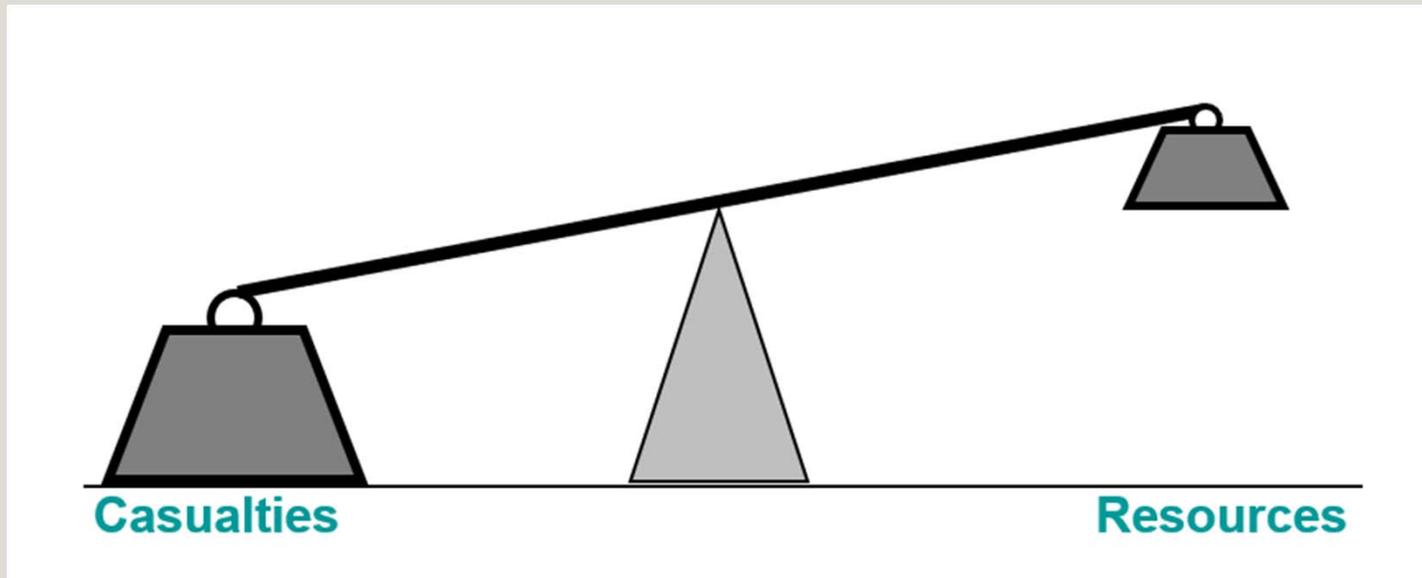
To save the largest number of people in the shortest amount of time.

Sound familiar?



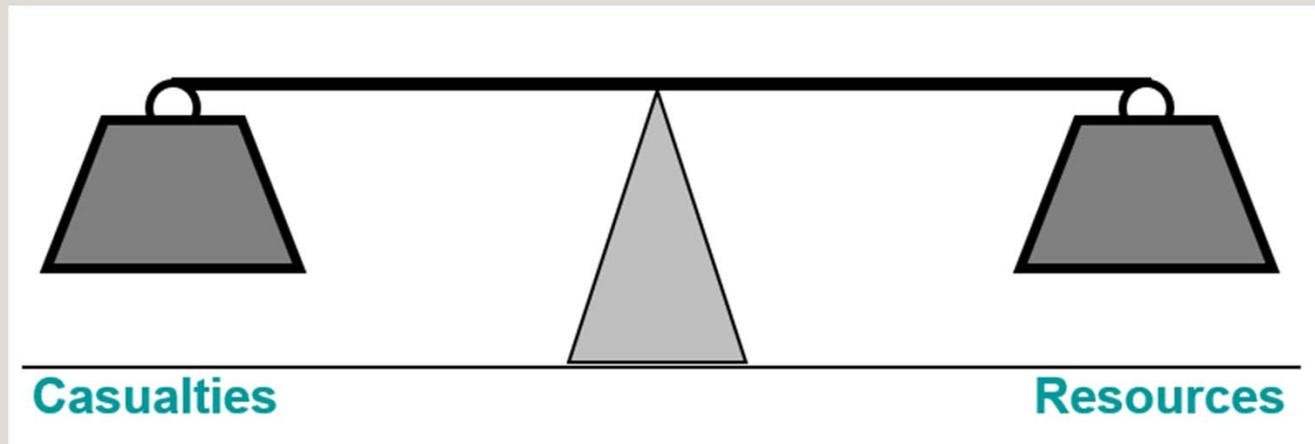
# INITIAL PROBLEM ON-SCENE

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# THE OBJECTIVE

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# QUESTIONS WHEN YOU HAVE MULTIPLE PATIENTS

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- What are my resources?
- Who is a patient?
- Which patient needs treatment first?
- Who can be salvaged?
- Who gets transported first?
- Who needs trauma/specialty care?
- Who can help care for others?



# TIME IS VERY IMPORTANT

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THE GOLDEN HOUR – The critical trauma patient has only 60 minutes ***from the time of injury*** to reach definitive surgical care, or the odds of a successful recovery diminish dramatically.

In EMS, they also talk about the PLATINUM TEN MINUTES, which would be the first ten minutes after the onset of injury. EMS is not always on scene that fast, but you might be!



# TIME MANAGEMENT

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- Arrival of resources
- Distribution of resources
- Effective patient management



# SCENE MANAGEMENT

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- **COMMAND**

- Who is in charge?
- Who is in charge of what?
- Who will I turn command over to?
- Who is going to do what?
- Who else needs to be here?

- **SAFETY**

- Is there a hazard or threat?
- Should I be here?
- Am I protected?
- What should I worry about?

# SCENE MANAGEMENT

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- ASSESSMENT

- What happened?
- What is going on now?
- How big is this?
- How many patients are there?
- What do I need?
- How does what I do affect others?
- What are they doing that can affect me?

- COMMUNICATIONS

- Who needs to know?
- What do they need to know?
- Does command and ops know what's happening?
- Do the other players know what's happening?

# SCENE MANAGEMENT

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- TRIAGE

- Who is doing it?
- Where are they doing it?
- What are they finding?

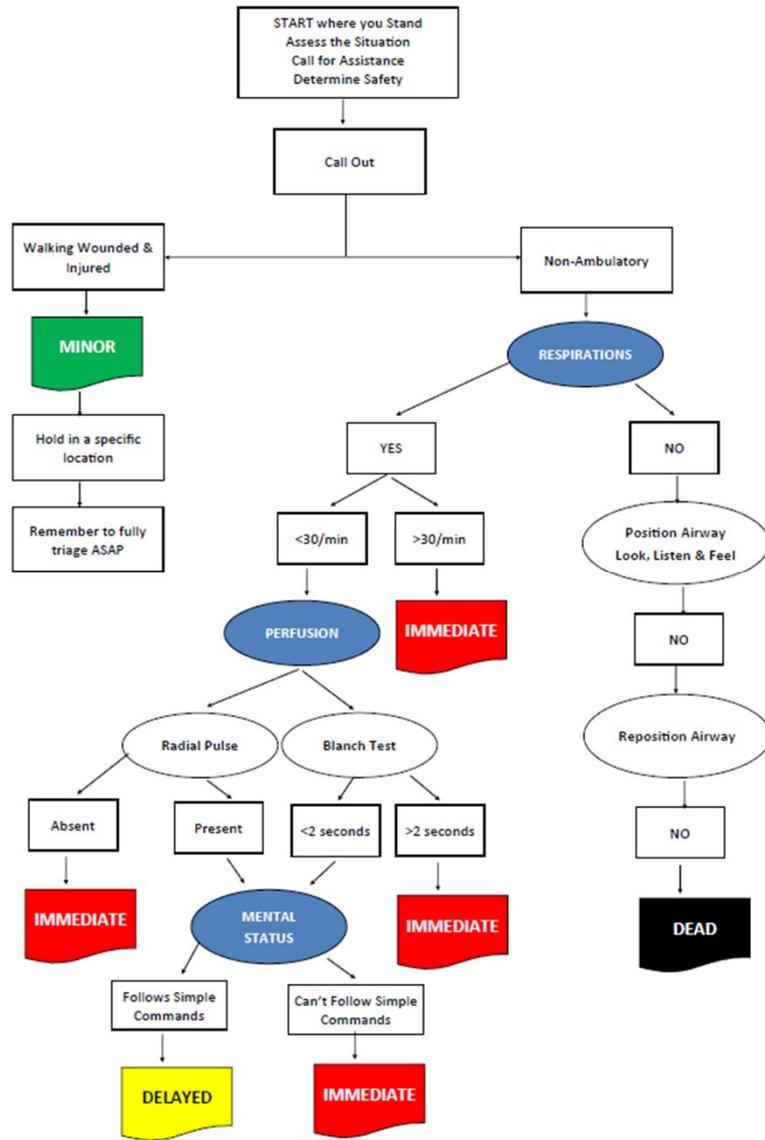
- TREATMENT

- How to organize?
- How much can we do?

# TRIAGE

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- WHEN DO WE DO IT?
  - When the number of patients exceeds the number of rescuers
  - When resources are scarce
  - When time is of the essence



# SCENARIO

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An adult is riding a bicycle with a child seat behind when they lose control and go over an embankment, landing on the road. A car with four passengers swerves to avoid the bicycle and runs into a tree on the rear passenger's side. One person is laying in the dirt and the four passengers of the car are visible.

# SCENE SIZE-UP

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- What do you see?
  - Note damage to car and any possible hazards
  - Is it safe to approach?
  - One back door has a two-foot intrusion from a tree. The door cannot be opened.
  - A child is stuck under the car.
  - The front wheel of the bicycle is bent.
- What do you hear?
  - Hissing, crackling, screaming?
- What do you smell?
  - Radiator fluid, gasoline?

# TRIAGE

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- PATIENT ONE
- Rear passenger, driver's side of car
- 28-year-old female found ambulatory on scene trying to help driver out of the car
- Feels slightly sick to her stomach, but says "I'm okay."

# TRIAGE

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- PATIENT TWO
- Driver of car
- 65-year-old male with chest pains starting shortly after the accident
- Originally able to walk, but so shaken by accident and new onset chest pain that he sits down and refuses to get up (unable to walk)
- Normal breathing, but respirations are 28 and he feels slightly short of breath
- Normal circulation with cap refill <2 sec. but he feels clammy
- Normal mental status

# TRIAGE

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- PATIENT THREE
- Front, passenger of car
- 62-year-old female who hit head on side of door/window during impact with tree
- Unable to walk, unresponsive
- Normal breathing but respirations are 26
- Normal circulation but you has a large laceration across right temple with profuse bleeding
- Unable to follow commands; unresponsive

# TRIAGE

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- PATIENT FOUR
- 9-year-old female trapped in car due to two-foot space intrusion into car by tree
- Unable to walk: severe pain in right leg and a laceration over thigh which is pumping bright red blood everywhere
- Normal breathing and respirations are 24 per min.
- No palpable pulse in right groin or foot, right foot is white and cool to the touch.

# TRIAGE

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- PATIENT FIVE
- Rear Passenger on Bicycle
- 4-year-old hit by front bumper of the car and then dragged under car
- Unable to walk; unresponsive
- Unable to breathe
- No return of spontaneous respiration upon opening of airway
- Positive palpable pulse - a faint carotid pulse is felt

# TRIAGE

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- PATIENT SIX
- Driver of Bicycle
- 34-year-old male hit by the front bumper of the car and thrown into woods (hidden from view)
- Unable to walk; dazed and confused, and has two broken legs (both feet have weak pulses)
- Unable to breathe: severe facial trauma, gurgling and gasping trying to breathe, possible broken jaw
- Breathing returns with airway opening