MED SERIES · MED-04

MED-04 — START Triage

Mass-Casualty Sorting for Community & MAG Response

A fast, mechanical way to sort many casualties into the right order of care when your group has more injured people than trained hands.

BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT

START (Simple Triage And Rapid Treatment) is a sorting method: a fast, repeatable way to sort many casualties into the order they need attention, using only breathing, pulse, and mental status as signs.

It is not a treatment protocol, and it is not a substitute for the MARCH-PAWS assessment MED-01 teaches once a casualty actually reaches care.

Sorting first is what actually saves the most lives when casualties outnumber trained hands.

A MAG or community group responding to a multi-casualty scene rarely has enough trained hands to give every casualty the same full, one-at-a-time attention normal first aid assumes. Applying that normal model anyway means one casualty gets complete care while others wait untouched — by luck of who was reached first, not by who actually needed help most. START exists to replace luck with a fast, mechanical sort.

"The sort decides an order, not who deserves help."

KEY TERMS

TERM	MEANING
START	Simple Triage And Rapid Treatment — the sorting method this course teaches.
Global sort	Anyone who can walk is Minor; everyone else gets the full R-P-M check.
R-P-M	Respiration, Perfusion, Mental status — checked in sequence on every non-ambulatory casualty.
30-2-Can Do	RR under 30, cap refill under 2 sec, follows simple commands.
JumpSTART	Pediatric variant of START — different R-P-M thresholds for children.
Tag categories	Immediate (red), Delayed (yellow), Minor (green), Expectant (black) — tag in the field with red/yellow flagging tape.
Triage kit	Tourniquet, NPA (if trained), chest seal, trauma dressing — nothing more; treatment waits for MED-01.

COURSE LESSONS

#	LESSON	WHAT IT COVERS
01	**Why Triage?**	The shift from one-patient care to sorting first.
02	**The START Algorithm**	The core R-P-M sequence this course is built around.
03	**The Four Triage Categories & Tagging**	The four tag categories, and how to mark them.
04	**JumpSTART: Pediatric Triage**	How R-P-M thresholds change for children.
05	**Running the Scene**	Sweep pattern, collection points, and team roles.
06	**Scenario Practice & Final Skill Check**	Timed scenarios that close the course's loop.

PRACTICE MATERIALS

A 20-patient printable card deck (with a facilitator answer key) supports offline MAG drilling.

DOCTRINAL SOURCES

SOURCE	PUBLISHER	RELEVANCE
CONTOMS Medic Handbook	CONTOMS Program	Casualty assessment sequencing behind the sort.
DHS Austere Emergency Medical Support Field Guide	U.S. Department of Homeland Security	Evacuation and mass-casualty considerations.
Tactical Trauma Assessment, Module 05	Course training module	Assessment sequencing under time pressure.