**EMS Triage Protocol**

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By Phyllis Zorn, eHow Contributor

## Count Patients

* + Count the number of patients at the scene and notify the dispatcher if additional help is needed.

## Prioritize

* + Life-saving care should be rapidly given to those who need it.

## Tag for Priority

* + Use color coding to identify the severity of patient need: Red for top priority, yellow for middle priority and green or black for lowest priority.

## Separation of Red-Tagged Patients

* + Red-tagged patients--those with breathing problems, severe bleeding, low or loss of consciousness, signs of shock, severe burns or severe medical problems--are separated from the others and given field treatment. As ambulances are available, they are transported first.

## Yellow-Tagged Patients

* + Yellow-tagged patients--burns but no breathing difficulties, back injuries and major or multiple bone or joint injuries--are monitored and treated as EMS technicians are available to treat them while they await transportation.

## Green-Tagged Patients

* + Treatment of patients with green tags--minor fractures or soft-tissue injuries--are delayed until last.

Read more: [EMS Triage Protocol | eHow.com](http://www.ehow.com/facts_6330593_ems-triage-protocol.html#ixzz2NGNL9wBN) <http://www.ehow.com/facts_6330593_ems-triage-protocol.html#ixzz2NGNL9wBN>