

Hello Juan,

I wanted to just say “Hi” and let you know the triage lights are really an amazing product. I attended Regional Fire Department training for the Santa Fe County Fire Department. Training consisted of a Mass Casualty Scenario with multiple vehicles and patients spread all over throughout the brush and roadside. Darkness came on as the scenario progressed and the responders had a difficult time keeping track of which patients were where. Triage was performed several times as they struggled to keep track. At the conclusion of the training, we debriefed the scenario regarding what people thought of how things ran. Several responders and line officers expressed frustration with the difficulty getting control of the scene. The departments that were there (4 of them) all have been trained in ICS and START Triage. During the scenario the ICS structure and triage system were employed and worked fairly well. Yet, they were still frustrated.

I explained the concepts of triage and the primary purpose of a rapid assessment, categorizing and moving. This is to happen once. I talked about how in a tactical environment we utilize the same principals of ICS and START triage. I went on to explain how we do not have time to stop and fill out a form and tie it to a patient. We check our patient and mark them (drop a light), and then we move. I described how we utilize and train our tactical medics to drop a light to indicate where a patient is located and what our patient status is. This concept rang true with many of the providers. The idea of being able to visualize the patient’s status from a distance seemed like an epiphany for some responders. You could see the concept processing in their brain. All at once, people started asking for information on how the triage lights work and if they could see one and try it.

Well, we have given information to a couple of the departments this week and they are reviewing the literature. Unfortunately, the impact of their frustration will not be lost. Last Saturday, I was on an emergency call where we had a single vehicle that rolled at highway speed and then continued to roll down a 100ft. embankment. There were eight (8) people in the car when it began rolling and seven (7) when it came to rest. There were four (4) children under the age of 8 years old, two (2) in their 20’s, and two (2) in their 50’s. It was dark out and difficult to see down the hill and along the ¼ mile of debris on the highway. We had five (5) ambulances, a helicopter, multiple rescue trucks, a heavy rescue, two (2) engines, and a Ladder truck, not to mention the 20(+) law enforcement and fire officer vehicles. The responders had a similar experience as they had before. They now realize that the tools they need are not in hand and are pushing to get some triage lights from their administration. Now that they are aware of a better way to operate, they feel negligent for not being able to function at the level they thought they were. We are meeting with their administration and demonstrating how to utilize triage lights and how to better their operations from ICS to the field START triage system.

So, Thank you for making such an important tool that we can use to better our system as a whole. The ability to triage once and then from a distance determine their status is invaluable for scene management. I look forward to being able to share your product with more services and agencies. To be able to solve a problem with such a device seems like a no-brainer, yet many responders suffer from call to call thinking the way they are doing things is it. One responder at a time we will share your product and enlighten many first responders.

Best Regards,

Charles

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