



Standard Guide for Training and Evaluation of Individuals Who are Responsible for or Perform Triage in a Prehospital Environment¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 1654; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide covers minimum requirements for the training and evaluation of individuals who perform triage at an emergency medical incident involving multiple casualties in a prehospital environment.

1.2 All training will be in accordance with Guide F 1653.

1.3 Included in this guide is a standard for knowledge and skill evaluation.

1.4 Operating within the framework of this guide may expose personnel to hazardous materials, procedures and equipment. For additional information see Practice F 1031 and Guides F 1219, F 1253, F 1285, F 1288, F 1453 and F 1489.

1.5 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* For specific precautionary statements, see the document cited in Footnote 3.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

F 1031 Practice for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic)^{2,3}

F 1177 Terminology Relating to Emergency Medical Services²

F 1219 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Perform Patient Initial and Detailed Assessment²

F 1253 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Perform Patient Secondary Assessment⁴

F 1285 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) to Perform Patient Examination Techniques²

F 1288 Guide for Planning for and Response to a Multiple Casualty Incident²

F 1453 Guide for Training and Evaluation of First Responders Who Provide Emergency Medical Care²

F 1489 Guide for the Performance of Patient Assessment by the Emergency Medical Technician (Paramedic)⁵

F 1651 Guide for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Paramedic)²

F 1653 Guide for Scope of Performance of Triage in Prehospital Environment²

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *first priority/immediate (RED)*—those patients with serious injuries that are life threatening but have a high probability of survival.

3.1.2 *fourth priority/dead/mortally wounded (BLACK)*—Those patients who are obviously dead as determined by local medical protocol or those patients with severe injuries and a low probability of survival, despite immediate care.

3.1.3 *injured, adj*—means both sick and injured patients.

3.1.4 *ongoing triage, n*—the continuing process of patient assessment and prioritization in a multiple casualty incident. (Also known as *secondary* and *tertiary*.)

3.1.5 *primary triage, n*—the initial process of rapid assessment, provision of life saving interventions and assignment of visual priority identification to each patient in a multiple casualty incident.

3.1.6 *second priority/delayed (YELLOW)*—those patients who are seriously injured and whose lives are not immediately threatened.

3.1.7 *third priority/minor (GREEN)*—those patients who are injured but do not require immediate medical attention and those apparently not physically injured.

3.1.8 *triage, n*—the process of sorting and prioritizing emergency medical care of the sick and injured on the basis of urgency and type of condition present as well as the number of patients and resources.

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F30 on Emergency Medical Services and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F30.02 on Personnel, Training, and Education.

Current edition approved Oct. 10, 1995. Published December 1995.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 13.02.

³ Most recent “Standards and Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiac Care” as reprinted from the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, available from American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Ave., Dallas, TX 75231.

⁴ Discontinued; see 1998 *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 13.01.

⁵ Discontinued; See 2001 *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 13.01.