**OEC Chapter 4: Incident Command and Triage**

**Overview:** This chapter covers how OEC technicians relate to the ICS system, which is helps multiple emergency response organizations coordinate response to large emergencies (for example with triage, which involves prioritizing a large number of patients for optimal response with constrained resources). The ICS is not essential to our daily operation at the bowl, but it’s important to know the basics.

**Major Points:**

* All rescue personnel and orgs are mandated to use the National Incident Command System (NIMS), which is a standardized framework for responding to and managing emergency situations involving multiple jurisdictions.
* As part of NIMS as rescue orgs in the USA must adopt the incident command system (ICS).
* The ICS provides a method for managing any incident, regardless of its cause, size, scope or complexity.
* The ICS consists of: Incident Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and finance/admin.
* Incident Command is the first functional area to be established at any incident and is managed by an Incident Commander (IC). Every Incident must have an IC a IC may have staff incl. Public information officer, safety officer and a liaison officer.
* When an incident occurs at a mountain rec. Area, OEC tech are usually the first responders and may fill a variety of ICS roles.
* OEC techs may respond to an incident involving more than one patient, even large numbers. When this occurs, responders must quickly determine the severity of each injury and rapidly identify specific resources that will be needed. This process includes patient triage, or prioritizing patients for treatment and transportation based on specific criteria.
* The four common triage categories can be remembered using the acronym ID-ME: immediate (red), delayed (yellow), minimal (green), expectant (black/grey).
* Two triage methods are: SALT (sort, assess, lifesaving interventions, treat and/or transport) and START (simple triage and rapid treatment).
* Triage is a dynamic process, may be performed more than once in an incident
* Triage tags are all weather cards that are attached to a patient and denote which triage category they have been assigned.

**Must Study:** fig. 4-4, Triage Methods, Figure 4-1, Fig 4-12

**Key Terms (p. 83):** *30-2-Can Do, Chain of command, Facility, Incident, Incident Commander, Incident Command System, Multiagency coordination system, Multiple Casualty Incident (MCI), National Incident Management System (NIMS), Personnel accountability system, Resource management, SALT triage, Section Chiefs, Span of Control, START triage system, Strike Team, Task Force, Triage.*