

NOTES

THE DISASTER STUDY GROUP IN SWEDEN

Despite Sweden's historically low incidence of natural or man-made disaster, the Swedish Civil Defense Administration has formed a disaster research group, 'The Disaster Study Group, housed in the Department of Sociology, Uppsala University, Uppsala.

Sweden has almost no natural disasters, and of course has not engaged in war for over a century and a half. However, the Civil Defense Administration acknowledges the possibility of war, and, of equal importance, the possibility of industrial-related disasters such as blow-outs in nuclear power stations or the release of toxic gases in factory explosions or fires. It is in light of these possibilities that they established the study group. The aim of the group is to study disasters which have actually occurred and those with a probability of future occurrence. The focus of the studies is broad, including cause and effect, the behavior of individuals, groups and agencies, and the preparation of guidelines for action in case of disaster or disaster-threat.

The group has started a report series called *Disaster Studies*. The issues are written either in English or in Swedish with extended summaries. The titles of the reports now available are:

- The Family and the Shelters;
Evacuate;
- Evacuations in Great Britain during World War II;
- Problems of Non-Response in Disaster Surveys: An Example from World War II;
- Warning Models.

For information about the group, contact Disaster Study Group, Department of Sociology, Box 513 Uppsala University S-751 20, Uppsala, Sweden.

NEW DISASTER JOURNAL

Pergamon Press of Oxford, England, has launched a new quarterly journal focussing on the emerging science of disaster technology. Published under the aegis of the London Technical Group, *Disasters* is intended for physical, social and medical scientists, engineers and administrators. General editor of the journal is John Seaman of the London Technical Group. The first issue appeared in January; free sample copies of it may be received by writing Jim Gilgunn Jones of Pergamon Press.

STANDARDIZED CASUALTY TAG

The first international, standardized casualty field tag for medical and rescue team use during disaster has been developed by the *Journal of Civil Defense*. The four-color Medical Emergency Triage Tag (METTAG) uses international symbols to communicate vital information about the injured victim. This enables emergency medical personnel to quickly understand the victim's condition and act accordingly regardless of language problems.

The tag's international symbols relate such information as the time of triage (hourglass symbol), name of victim (male/female symbols), street address (large buildings) and the name of the person conducting triage (red cross symbol).

Each tag is also designed with a four-color priority scheme which permits instant determination of the victim's condition. Four priority designations advise the rescue team on the next procedure with the victim. The designations are as follows:

- Green* – Priority III (crossed-out ambulance): Transportation of the casualty to a hospital is not necessary.
- Yellow* – Priority II (crawling turtle): Requires hospital care, but transportation to a hospital can be delayed.
- Red* – Priority I (running rabbit): Requires immediate transportation to a hospital.
- Black* – Priority O (cross): Deceased.

Drawing of the victim on one side of the card indicates the nature of injuries and notes whether intravenous (iv) or intramuscular (im) injections have been made. And, the tag is

marked with serial numbers to identify victims throughout the rescue and treatment procedure.

METTAG, made of tough cardstock, has been extensively tested for durability. During one test, the tag was soaked for 48 hours, frozen for 48 hours and brought to a boil without losing legibility or serviceability. A tough plastic 30-inch cord is threaded through each tag's grommet prior to shipment.

Cost of the tag ranges from 17 cents to 35 cents (shipping charge) depending on quantity ordered.

For additional information contact the *Journal of Civil Defense*, P.O. Box 910, Starke, Florida, 32091.

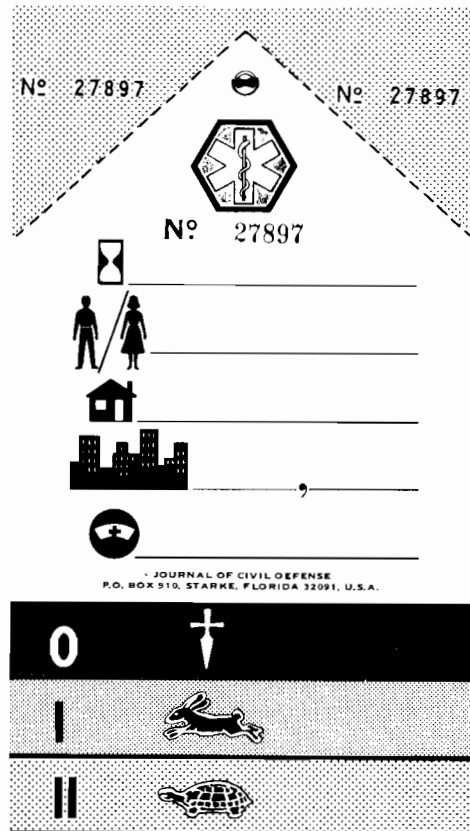
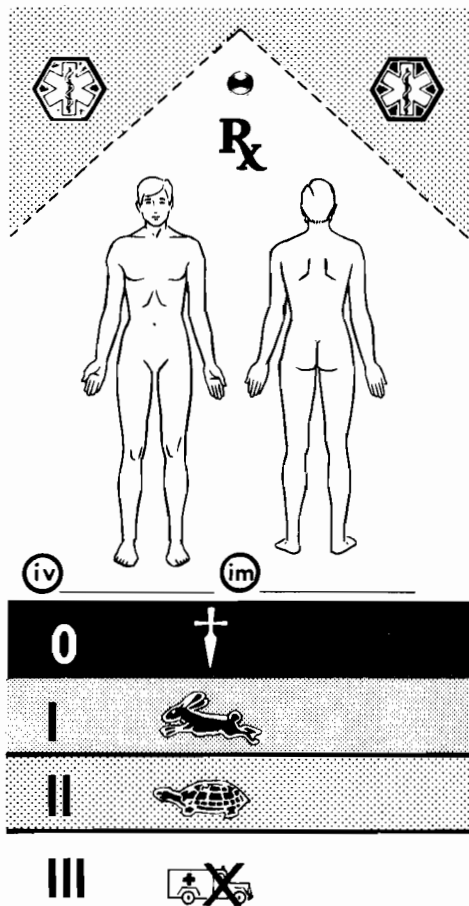


Fig. 1. Sample Mettag (without color).