Bethesda Hospitals' Emergency Preparedness Partnership

Using Virtual World Technology for Disaster Training

PROBLEM

It is critical to prepare hospital personnel to function effectively in a disaster, but training is expensive and the most efficient methods should be used

SOLUTION BEING EVALUATED

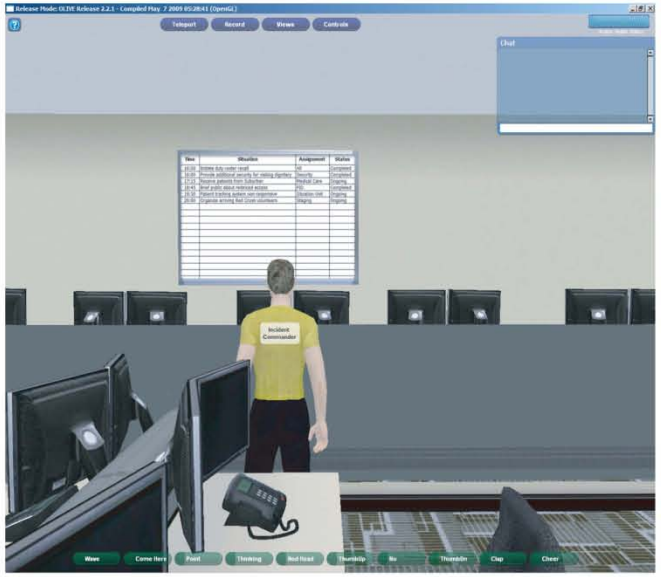
A 'virtual world' (an online setting where each user has an 'avatar' who represents them) is being tested for its potential as a part of hospital employee disaster training

TARGET TRAINING AUDIENCE

Hospital personnel who may work in the Emergency Operations Center during a disaster

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Is training in virtual environments effective, useful and engaging?
- What are its strengths and limits to simulate disaster conditions?



PROJECT GOALS

Develop and test two disaster training scenarios to evaluate the value of using a virtual world

3D MAPS

The use of 3 dimensional maps of Bethesda will be evaluated as an additional educational resource

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF USING A VIRTUAL WORLD TRAINING ENVIRONMENT

- Multiple students can interact in the online training environment in real-time
- Training environment is available 24/7, and can be accessed from almost any Internet-connected location
- Can simulate emergency/disaster situations that are too expensive or impractical to simulate in real life

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