BHEPP PROJECT: VIRTUAL WORLD HICS TRAINING
Patient transferred to Suburban – voice report made from WRNMMC radio to Suburban cell phone via wireless bridge.
Traditional Training Methods

- Hospitals use the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS).
- Senior hospital staff are required to train periodically on HICS.
- It is a hospital accreditation requirement (The Joint Commission).
Hospitals’ Training Methods

Trainees must read quite a bit...

Hospital policies, procedures, resources lists, etc.
Traditional Training Methods

...participate on table-top exercises...
Traditional Training Methods

...and participate in disaster drills/exercises.

(e.g., CMAX / Capital Shield – annual exercises)
Virtual World Disaster Training

• NLM is evaluating the use of a Virtual World + Web-based e-learning platform to enhance BHEPP emergency training.

• Interactive learning on the web, and computer game-based exercising.
VW Training: Research questions

- Can VW training be more engaging, effective than traditional methods?
- What are the limits of the medium to simulate disaster management conditions and tools?
- What are the adoption barriers of these technologies & methodologies in the hospitals?
Virtual World Training Features

- Target audience: Senior hospital staff who may play a role in the Hospital Command Center (HCC).
- Covers from basic HICS information to interactive virtual exercise capabilities.
- Flexible, realistic emergency scenarios.
- Available from anywhere there is an Internet connection via secure login.
Training Platform Components

- “Crawl”: Web-based HICS concepts learning and reference information.
- “Walk”: Web-based, scenario-based, quizzes and tests.
- “Run”: Virtual World-based collaborative disaster exercise.
HCC in Second Life
Project stages

- **Stage 1 (2009-11)**
  - Identified contractor resources.
  - Developed proof of concept
    - Web-based custom e-learning platform using Flash
    - VW learning platform using OLIVE (a commercial VW software platform)
  - Platform demonstrated to and approved by hospitals

- **Stage 2 (2012)**
  - Collaboration with UMD Center for Health & Homeland Security
  - Developed enhanced web-based e-learning platform
  - Developed Second Life-based VW learning platform
  - Formal evaluation via a virtual exercise
Project stages

- **Stage 3 (2012+)**
  - Conduct new training exercise for Suburban.
  - Engage other hospitals.
  - Develop single-player training.
Recent developments

- Virtual exercise conducted at Suburban Hospital with very successful results.
- Developed e-learning platform using MOODLE and content is being further refined.
- Other hospitals and agencies are interested in using the BHEPP training resources.
Demo

- MOODLE site: [www.bhepptraining.org](http://www.bhepptraining.org)
- Virtual HICS immersion.