

The Use of Simulators as Training Tools

Anne-Sophie NYSSSEN

Work Psychology Department, University of Liege, Belgium

E-mail : asnyssen@ulg.ac.be

Abstract

The use of very realistic, « full scale » simulators for training is becoming more and more widespread in medicine. Aviation is not the only area that benefits from this technology. Anaesthesia and surgery have developed training simulators. They are generally called upon, in high risk sectors where training is difficult in the real world for safety, economic or deontological reasons. They are also used in training operators who must perform adequately on their first exposure to critical situations. For instance, some medical situations occur rarely and trainees have not the potential to encounter those during their training. The simulator provides the possibility of this practical training: they confront trainees with incidents and enhance learning of recognition and regulation of rare incidents in real time. Since 1998, several department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine of Belgium University Centers have organized a training program for crises management using full scale simulator. On the basis of this experience, this article addresses some specific problems relating to the use of simulator for training.