



University of Central Florida
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Fire Rescue Station No. 65 Emergency Services Training Building

In a unique partnership between UCF and Orange and Seminole counties, fire fighters from both counties operate out of Central Florida's newest fire station, located on the University of Central Florida campus. The Institute for Simulation & Training (IST) administers the adjacent high-tech training facility.

The facilities are at the intersection of McCulloch Road—UCF's northern boundary and the Orange and Seminole county line—and Orion Boulevard, a back door to the campus. Staffed by both counties, the fire rescue station answers emergency calls to campus and surrounding areas.

Population Growth a Factor

University and county officials have long been concerned about the area's considerable population growth and the resulting impact on emergency services. A joint fire rescue station serving all three entities proved to be a cost-effective solution. Negotiations for the construction of a joint-use facility began in 1992. UCF provided the land and the two counties agreed to build and operate the fire rescue station.

The 1,000 square foot training building is an added benefit that fits in nicely with UCF and IST emergency management training



initiatives. The state-of-the-art facility serves two major functions: training and developmental research.

Training

Training focuses on "train the trainer" applications coordinated with Orange and Seminole County fire rescue departments. Plans are to link the facility's computers via telephone and satellite communications to

Mission: ■ Be a focal point for the expanding modeling and simulation community ■ Develop and conduct M&S research and related services ■ Identify M&S directions and trends ■ Facilitate moving M&S into new areas ■ Be a research and development access point to industry for technology transfer ■ Create and participate in partnerships ■ Provide an environment conducive for student and faculty participation in M&S research and development ■ Provide continuing education services.

fire stations throughout the two counties. The links will provide countywide access to distance education courses developed by UCF, IST and others.

Research

Developmental research focuses on new, custom-made instructional programs. IST researchers envision that these programs will fulfill a need for advanced emergency management training for professionals and fire safety education for the general public.

The facility could become the core of a model county fire safety program for local communities and schools. School children can attend a class at the facility as part of a field trip. Access to actual fire safety equipment at the nearby station will reinforce the films, videos and interactive computer-based programs available at the facility.

Prototype for Advanced-Level Training

UCF also hopes the Emergency Management Training building can serve as a prototype for advanced, management-level instruction. With the growing public demand for well-managed crisis teams that can respond to large-scale emergencies, educators see a need for a program that can provide that level of training and complement the training now available at the local community colleges.

To support the facility, IST envisions the development of a variety of computer-based simulation programs and interactive courseware. IST coordinates with the Orange County Fire Rescue Department, Seminole County Department of Public Safety and UCF School of Nursing to train EMTs and nurses at the facility, using the institute's human patient simulator. The \$75,000 simulator is a sophisticated, computer-animated mannequin used to teach emergency medical procedures.

Principal scientist Peter Kincaid, Ph.D. is the IST researcher in charge of the training facility. Dr. Kincaid's plans to use computers to model and simulate such catastrophic events as a tornado, hurricane or train wreck will demonstrate practical and cost-effective

ways to train emergency response professionals at all levels to prepare for and respond to crises.

The facility's collection of medical simulator software will help bring high technology into nursing and emergency medical technician training. Both IST and the university see emergency management as a growth area for training and research. The training facility will be equipped with some of the latest in instructional media technology. It has the potential to become a resource for seminars for fire and emergency managers around the nation.

Additional benefits have accrued from the joint venture between the counties and the university. One has been the positioning of emergency crews to better serve both counties, regardless of political boundaries. Fire/safety agencies in both Orange and Seminole save money by sharing a building, apparatus, staff and costs.

The university benefits from increased service without having to set up a separate facility. The state-of-the-art, live patient simulation and other opportunities for training made available through the IST facility add a 21st Century dimension to the project. Taxpayers already are realizing the benefits of better-trained emergency managers, nurses and emergency medical technicians, more effective community safety education and enhanced response to area emergencies.

IST looks to outside sources to help fund the Emergency Management Training building. A combination of grants, revenues from seminars and state and local funding supports research and educational programs.

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