

Dr. Abdulmajeed M AlShowair, Head of Physician Affairs Family & Community Medicine Department at Prince Sultan Military Medical City

COMPETITIVE DIVISION - PRACTITIONER

Virtual Reality Vs. Table Top Exercises in Disaster Preparedness

Systematic Review Study

The scope and number of disasters has increased over the years. This has called for more robust disaster preparedness plans. As a result of this, new approaches to preparation of disaster preparedness plans are being developed to either replace or complement contemporary approaches to disaster preparedness. One such new approach involves the use of virtual reality exercises which has been billed as being complementary to the more common table top exercises. Therefore, in this paper, there will be an evaluation of the case for virtual reality exercises as a complementary/replacement mechanism for table top exercises. This involved an evaluation of the background on the need to have virtual reality exercises as well as results arising from literature review. The study concluded that virtual reality exercises are better in preparing disaster preparedness plans when compared to table top exercises. The study therefore recommended that virtual reality exercises be used as the primary means of creating disaster preparedness plans or at least as complementary to table top exercises.