

Crisis management simulator®



The lockmaster of the Rozenburg lock looks startled at the lock chamber. Without any prior warning, a light yellow liquid is flowing from the chemical tanker that is being locked through. Both lock doors are closed and the lock chamber is filled with clearly unhealthy fumes. An alarm sounds on the tanker and the startled crew hasten up the wall, using the lock-ladders. The wind blows the fumes in the direction of Rozenburg. The contingency plan must be put into action.

Large-scale combating of incidents or disasters requires multidisciplinary co-operation. In the summer of 2003, the Disaster Simulation Platform was established in Rotterdam on the initiative of Port Authority Rotterdam NV, the STC-Group and the Rotterdam fire brigade. A workgroup of the platform, in which besides the Safety Region Rotterdam-Rhine, also Port Authority and

the STC-Group were represented, was instructed to develop a prototype of a crisis management simulator using the platform of the Transport Chain Simulator. The simulator is the most suitable means of training for executive staff involved in decision-making processes concerning large-scale incidents. In the event that a calamity occurs, quick and efficient action is required to save lives and limit the dangers. Being able to function in a team, take the correct decisions and manage the consequences is of crucial importance. The effectiveness of combating disasters is improved considerably when the members of the Commando Team Place Incident (CTPI) (Dutch: Commandoteam Plaats Incident – CoPI) are more familiar with the operational possibilities and limitations of other team members and when they can apply relevant supplementary information purposefully.



Complex operations

Not only leaders, but also assistants and disaster-fighters must know what to do, and they must not get into one another's way. This requires good mutual understanding. Because so many aid and community services work together, complex operations are involved. To let operations proceed optimally, people are trained continuously and practices are held. All conceivable operations, from small to large ones, are brought into the scene to test the approach and improve it where necessary. Simulation plays a new and innovative role in this.

In the crisis management simulator®, the various community services can also practise their tasks. They are active especially after the most acute phase of a calamity, for instance in managing casualties. In a large-scale disaster, a community action centre that co-ordinates the activities of all services involved is established. Many 'players' are involved in this scenario. They must perform their task properly and properly inform the other players about the situation and the actions they have taken. Think about the Public Transport department that transports casualties of a calamity to a crisis centre. Workers of the Social Affairs and Employment Service receive these evacuees and provide them with the basic necessities of life. The Medical Assistance in Accidents and Disasters is responsible for medical care. The Central Registration and Information Bureau registers those involved. The damage is also inventorised and registered. The Municipal Housing and Planning Department and Rotterdam Development Corporation endeavour to arrange (temporary) accommodation for those who have lost their homes and for affected industries.

An important point is providing information. Evacuees want to know what is going to happen to them and how the situation is concerning the missing and injured persons. This information is provided by the community action centre. This also applies to information to the press. Citizens are advised to listen to the disaster broadcast of the Radio and TV station. The Public Order and Safety Service thoroughly prepares large-scale practices and in this often work together with aid services and specialised external bureaus.

The initiators are developing other scenarios for the crisis management simulator that can be used for training not only in the Rotterdam region, but all over the world.

Further information

For further information about this and other simulators, you can contact STC B.V. STC B.V. is a subsidiary division of the STC-Group and responsible for non-subsidised activities. STC B.V. provides standard courses as well as courses that are tailor-made for your industry. Included in STC B.V. are the contract education division of the Shipping and Transport College, Maritime Simulation Rotterdam B.V. (MSR), Dynamar Consultancy B.V. and the International Maritime Transport Academy (IMTA).

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