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ASU-Mesa Community College form responder partnership



Phoenix Business Journal by Angela Gonzales, Senior Reporter

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[Arizona State University](#) and [Mesa Community College](#) have forged a research partnership focusing on emergency responders.

When emergency responders participate in simulation training at Mesa Community College's Virtual Incident Command Center, ASU's Applied Psychology Unit will analyze and measure human behavior during the command of incidents. They will look at metrics such as team work, team cognition, and training regimes. Data collected will show how well a team performs, what they have learned and effective methods for training.

The areas of study will focus on emergency response for industry, military, first responders, fire departments, police departments, educational institutions, hospitals, power plants, railroads, and airports. Responses to incidents caused by hurricanes, earthquakes, tornados, floods, pandemics or man-made causes such as acts of terrorism will be studied.

One of the first projects will focus on the cognitive decline in incident command. During this study, researchers will examine how long emergency responders can continue to work in high-stress situations and still make good decisions.

Angela Gonzales covers health, biotech and education.

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