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HCC in the News: Safety in numbers

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Community colleges play a key role in training the nation's police officers and other public safety employees, such as firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs). And much of this training takes place outside the classroom, in role-playing exercises and other simulations that thoroughly prepare students for what they're apt to encounter in the field.

Some of these situations involve live actors. Others involve sophisticated technologies, such as immersive virtual environments or even "burn buildings" that can replicate different kinds of fires.

Scenario-based training has been an important part of Leyton's police academy experience at Florida's HCC, including an advanced firearms training simulator that's like being inside a life-sized video game. "It's the most impressive (training) I've ever seen," he says.

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