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MASS CASUALTY, DISASTER TRAINING INFLATABLE MANIKIN

Priority is claimed to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/518,195, filed Nov. 7, 2003.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to mass casualty disaster training and inflatable manikins (mannequins). More particularly, the present invention relates to a system and method for using inflatable manikins for training for mass casualty disaster scenarios.

2. Related Art

Training for mass casualty disasters has become a standard for emergency agencies around the world. Such mass casualty disasters include various different scenarios, including for example, terrorist attack, transportation disaster (e.g. vehicle crash), natural disaster (e.g. earthquake), and the like.

Training for such mass casualty disasters typically involves numerous participants or actors who act as victims of the disaster. The participants or actors may act in accordance with an assigned condition or event, and may have make-up applied, to provide realism. It will be appreciated that the very nature of training for mass casualties requires numerous participants or actors. Organizing such disaster training can be costly, and can require enormous coordination efforts. For example, numerous participants or actors must be arranged for, organized, instructed, prepared, etc., in addition to the emergency agencies that will actually be training. The needs of the participants or actors must be considered, such as restroom facilities, food, water, etc.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It has been recognized that it would be advantageous to develop a system and method for mass casualty disaster training that requires fewer participants or actors. In addition, it has been recognized that it would be advantageous to develop a system and method for such training that is less costly and less complicated to implement and coordinate.

The invention provides a mass casualty disaster training system with a plurality of manikins (mannequins) arrangeable to simulate a plurality of victims of a mass casualty disaster. A plurality of indicia is each associated with one of the plurality of manikins that is indicative of predetermined physical or medical conditions associated with the mass casualty disaster.

In accordance with a more detailed aspect of the present invention, the plurality of manikins can be expandable and collapsible. For example, the manikins can be inflatable, and each can include an inflatable bladder with a human form.

In accordance with another more detailed aspect of the present invention, each of the plurality of manikins can include a pocket formed on the inflatable bladder. An insert can be receivable within the pocket, with the indicia disposed on the insert and visible from the pocket.

The invention also provides a method for training for mass casualty disasters. A plurality of manikins is arranged to simulate a plurality of victims of a mass casualty disaster. Triage and treatment of the plurality of manikins are simulated.

In accordance with a more detailed aspect of the present invention, a plurality of inflatable manikins can be inflated. Inflating the manikins can include inflating an inflatable

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bladder with a human form. The plurality of inflatable manikins can be deflated and stored after simulating triage and treatment.

Additional features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the detailed description which follows, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, which together illustrate, by way of example, features of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a front view of a mass casualty disaster training manikin in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is side view of the manikin of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a side view of the manikin of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a partial front view of the manikin of FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is a front view of another mass casualty disaster training manikin in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a top view of a mass casualty disaster training system and scenario in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a partial front view of another mass casualty disaster manikin in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 8 is a front view of an insert with text indicia of the manikin of FIG. 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Reference will now be made to the exemplary embodiments illustrated in the drawings, and specific language will be used herein to describe the same. It will nevertheless be understood that no limitation of the scope of the invention is thereby intended. Alterations and further modifications of the inventive features illustrated herein, and additional applications of the principles of the inventions as illustrated herein, which would occur to one skilled in the relevant art and having possession of this disclosure, are to be considered within the scope of the invention.

As illustrated in FIGS. 1-4, a mass casualty disaster training manikin (mannequin), indicated generally at 10, in accordance with the present invention is shown for use in training for mass casualty disasters. A plurality of such manikins 10 can be used, as described in greater detail below. The manikins 10 can be utilized to simulate a mass casualty disaster or scenario, including for example: terrorist attack; riot; transportation disaster, such as an airline, train, boat or car crash; natural disaster, such as earthquake, tornado, hurricane, flood, fire, avalanche or landslide; war or battle; etc. The manikins 10 can be arranged to simulate a plurality of victims of the mass casualty disaster scenario. The manikins can be used to train various different personnel and agencies, including for example, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), hospital staff, police, firefighters, transit employees, etc.

The manikins 10 can have a human form, or can be shaped and sized substantially as a human, to provide a degree of realism. Thus, the manikins can include a head, torso, legs and arms. The manikins can have different shapes or configurations. For example, some manikins can be provided without one or more appendages to be consistent with the predetermined medical conditions, such as amputation. In addition, the manikins can be configured with other human characteristics, such as clothing, facial features, etc. Such characteristics can be painted or printed on the manikins.