



SEARCH



Home | Home Delivery | Site Map | Archives | Print Edition | Advertis

Hi, Responder911

July 8, 2004

E-mail story Print

a d

Member Services
LOGOUT

MARKETPLACE
classifieds and more

- Find a Job
- Find a Car
- Find a Home
- Find an Apartment
- More Classifieds

shopping center newspaper ads merchant ads

SoCal a-z find a business find a service

Find grocery coupons

lovalife find a date

calendarlive.com

Art, Theater, Night Life
Movies, Music, TV, Dining

Communities

- Burbank Leader
- Claremont-Upland Voice
- Coastline Pilot
- Daily Pilot
- Huntington Beach Independent
- News-Press
- Rancho Cucamonga Voice

- The World
- The Nation
- California | Local Business
- Politics | Election 2004
- Sports
- Travel
- Editorials, Op-Ed
- Sections
- Arts & Entertainment
- Books
- Chess
- Columns
- Education
- Environment
- Food
- Health
- Highway 1
- Home
- Kids' Reading Room
- Magazine
- Obituaries
- Outdoors
- Real Estate
- Religion
- Science & Medicine
- Style & Culture
- Sunday Opinion
- Technology
- Times Poll

Independent

HUNTINGTON BEACH, SUNSET BEACH

Responding to a life-saving need

Two local paramedics and a multimedia business join forces to create software for emergency responders.

By Andrew Edwards, Independent

A local business has created a tool its owners believe can save lives if terrorists ever again strike in the United States — and it's only a tap of a key away.

The Huntington Beach-based company, Responder 911 Inc., is marketing training software its makers believe can teach emergency crews how to use their gear, and their brains, when responding to a terror attack.

The software, titled "Emergency Response to Terrorism," is based on a Federal Emergency Management Agency manual reproduced verbatim in the software's text and narration. Jon Muir, one of the software's creators, said the multimedia format lets firefighters and other emergency workers see what they'd need to do after a terrorist attack.

"This gets the first responders to think about what you are supposed to do when this happens, and you think back to your training," Muir said.

The visual lessons take users through the ins and outs of the dangers of political violence. Muir, who created the company with James Melton, said the software includes information about the history of terrorism and hazards posed by chemical and biological agents, and it warns firefighters that terrorists could go as far as to rig bombs to explode when triggered by fire crews' radio frequencies.

Muir, a paramedic, lives in Huntington Beach and works for the Santa Ana Fire Department with his partner, Melton. The two hooked up with Cliff

H.B. Independent

- News
- Sports
- Columns
- Forum
- Happenings
- Schools
- People
- Public Safety
- Calendar
- Faith
- About the Independent
- About the Staff

Local Headlines

- Man shot, killed after standoff
- Day shakes, doesn't stir
- Condo squabble not violent but heated
- Parade veteran decorated with first-place prize
- Responding to a life-saving need

more >

[Corrections](#)**Editions**[Print Edition](#)
[National \(PDF\)](#)
[Wireless](#)**Extras**[College Connection](#)
[Sweepstakes](#)
[Crossword](#)
[Horoscope](#)
[Lottery](#)
[Multimedia](#)
[Traffic](#)
[Weather](#)
[Week in Focus](#)**Archives**

Enter Keyword(s):

Detailed Search**SITE MAP****Los Angeles Times****HOME DELIVERY**

- [Subscribe](#)
- [Manage My Account](#)
- [Gift Subscription](#)
- [College Discount](#)
- [Mail Subscriptions](#)

IN THE COMMUNITY

- [Times in Education](#)
- [Reading by 9](#)
- [LA Times Books](#)
- [Student Journalism](#)
- [LA Times Family Fund](#)
- [Times-Mirror Foundation](#)
- [LA Times Events](#)

MEDIA CENTER [CLICK HERE](#)[About The Times](#)**MARKETPLACE**
classifieds and more

- [Find a Job](#)
- [Find a Car](#)
- [Find a Home](#)
- [Find an Apartment](#)
- [More Classifieds](#)
- [Place an Ad](#)
- [Newspaper Ads](#)
- [Grocery Coupons](#)
- [Personals](#)
- [Times Guides](#)
- [Recycler.com](#)

Partners

Goldman, a college friend of Muir's who owns the Huntington Beach multimedia company Clockwork, Inc. Together, they transformed tedious reading matter — a printed government manual — into a more visually stimulating format that adds bells and whistles while keeping all the information from the source material.

The three began work on the project more than a year ago, Goldman said, and within the past couple months, completed Version 2.0, which adds narration to the lessons. They're still fine-tuning the software.

"We're doing updates today, as we speak," Goldman said.

The product includes a short film that simulates a chemical attack at a federal building, followed by a sequence that shows firefighters how to respond and use their fire trucks to set up a decontamination shower for victims.

"We're showing them something that they can actually do 10 minutes after watching the video," Melton said.

Muir and Melton got the idea to transform the training manual to an audio-visual format months before the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. Muir said he first came across the government publication eight months before Sept. 11 and was immediately impressed by the material.

"I actually read it and thought, 'Wow, this is pretty good information,'" he said.

After the attacks at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Muir and Melton were sure there would have been more survivors if rescue agencies had widespread access to terrorism-response training.

"We knew right then and there, had people read some of this material, it could have saved some lives," Muir said.

The Santa Ana Fire Department sent copies of the software to each of its stations, but the three hope to sell copies to Washington rather than local fire departments.

"Our goal is that the federal government takes it over and disseminates it to every first responder in the nation," Muir said.

The software costs about \$70,000 to produce, and so far the company has made back only a small fraction of its investment. Federal agencies have not contacted the company to buy copies.

Responder 911 sells the software for \$89.95. Melton said comparable programs can run in the \$500 to \$600 range, but they wanted to make it available to individuals as well as government agencies.

"We want to make it affordable, so you can take it home and study it

yourself," Melton said.

The three would like to make additional training materials if they can afford future projects. Melton said a second effort would teach citizens how to work together in the aftermath of terrorism or a natural disaster.

"Police and fire services will be totally consumed during a major earthquake, and the neighborhoods will be pretty much on their own," Melton said.

If you want other stories on this topic, search the Archives at latimes.com/archives.

TMSReprints

[Article licensing and reprint options](#)

Copyright 2004 Los Angeles Times

By visiting this site, you are agreeing to our [Privacy Policy](#)
[Terms of Service](#).