



5th International Conference on
Information Systems for
Crisis Response and Management

Washington, DC, USA
May 4-7, 2008
<http://www.iscram.org>

CALL FOR PAPERS
FOR A SPECIAL *ACADEMIC* SESSION ON
HCI for Emergencies

Session ID: HCI-01

Motivation

There is a growing sense in the emergency information systems community that new methods of design and evaluation are needed, from producing new metaphors to managing information overload.

In fact, emergencies challenge people in reacting quickly and within a difficult physical situation. During an emergency situation, all the people have in some sense a kind of disability. Some of them caused by stress, the environment or even by lack of information. For these reasons new approaches are required in order to design information systems for emergencies taking into account both cognitive load and physical difficulties. These approaches require considering usability and user-centred design when developing information systems targeted at the emergency level, the collaboration level, and the work environment level. The aim of this special session is to solicit researchers to present their results or experiences in information systems development, use or needs.

Research Area

We consider it particularly interesting to explore aspects that have not traditionally been central to Human-Computer Interaction, but are now emerging as relevant and important factors in the design of critical and emergency information systems.

The properties of emergency situations explained above make designing good interaction with information technology challenging in different ways; in fact systems should provide tools that facilitate users to:

- Manage information rapidly (Information Visualization, Mobile and Ubiquitous computing, Multimodal Interfaces and Natural Interaction, etc.).
- Take effective decisions under emergency situations (Cognitive Models of the User, Computer Supported Cooperative Work, Awareness and Teamwork, etc.).

- Rapidly judge and react to the situations (Interface Metaphors, Interactive Systems, Teaming, User-Centred Design, Decision Support Systems, Agent-based Systems)

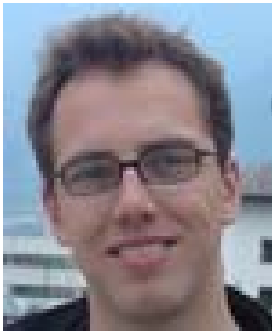
Topics

- *HCI for emergencies*
- *Emergency Response Information Systems*
- *User-Centred Design*
- *Ubiquitous computing*
- *Multi-modality*
- *Universal Design*

Type of contribution:

- **Academic Session:** we invite researchers from academia or research labs to present their research or research-in-progress papers. Prospective presenters submit a regular research (or research-in-progress) paper.

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Important ISCRAM 2008 Dates:

- December 21, 2007: Paper submission deadline
- February 10, 2008: Notification of (conditional) acceptance
- February 22, 2008: Early registration deadline
- March 1, 2008: Final camera-ready paper submission deadline
- May 4-7, 2008: ISCRAM 2008

About ISCRAM:

The ISCRAM Community is a worldwide community of researchers, scholars, teachers, students, practitioners and policy makers interested or actively involved in the subject of Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management. At its annual international conference alternating between the US and Europe, the ISCRAM Community gathers to present and discuss the latest research and developments in this growing area during an interactive and stimulating 3 day program. The ISCRAM Community also organizes an International Summer School for PhD students and ISCRAM-CHINA, an annual conference for ISCRAM research in China. All information on ISCRAM can be found at <http://www.iscram.org>

ISCRAM 2008 will be held from 4-7 May at the George Washington University (GWU) located in Washington, DC, USA. The conference will be hosted by GWU's Institute for Crisis, Disaster, and Risk Management (ICDRM). All details on this conference will be made available via the ISCRAM website mentioned above.