



Canadian Society for  
Civil Engineering

## ENHANCING THE CONSTRUCTION SAFETY TRAINING BY USING VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENTS: V-SAFE

**Işık Ateş Kırıl, Semra Çomu, Can Kavaklıoğlu**





# Outline

---

- ✓ Motivation
- ✓ Background
- ✓ Development of the V-SAFE
- ✓ Alpha Study
- ✓ Contributions
- ✓ Conclusion



# Motivation

---



## United States

800 fatal accidents in 2013  
(U.S. Bureau of Labor, 2014)

## Canada

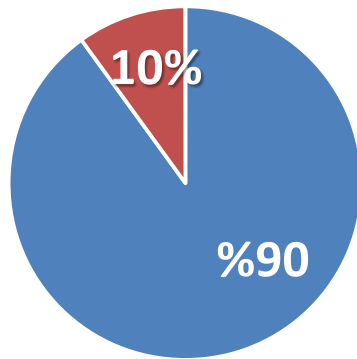
558 fatal accidents between  
2004 and 2013 (WSIB, 2013)

## European Union

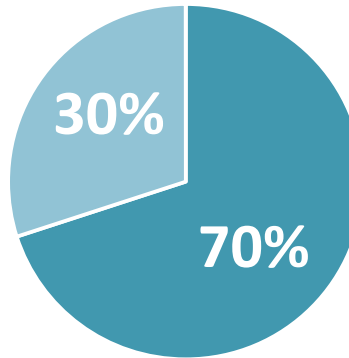
Approximately 3,800 fatal  
injuries occurred in 27 EU  
countries in 2012 (Eurostat,  
2013).



# Motivation



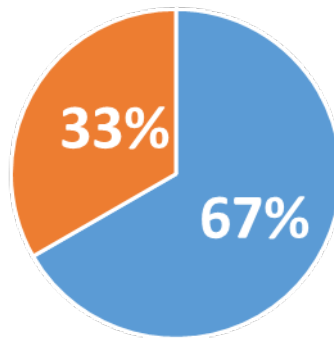
■ Preventable  
■ Not Preventable



■ Other  
■ Poor Safety Management Action

Coleman (1991)

33% of Risks could not be identified by the workers



Carter and Smith (2006)







# Training Methods



- Information Delivery Systems
- Books, Lectures
- Videos, Photos



- Information Delivery Systems + Feedback
- Questionnaires
- Interviews



- Knowledge & Information Transfer
- Behavior Modeling
- Active Hands-On Training
- Feedback

*"Relative effectiveness of worker safety and health training methods" by Burke et al. 2006*



# Research Objective

## Alternative Training Method???



**Knowledge and Information  
Transfer**



**Behavior Modeling**



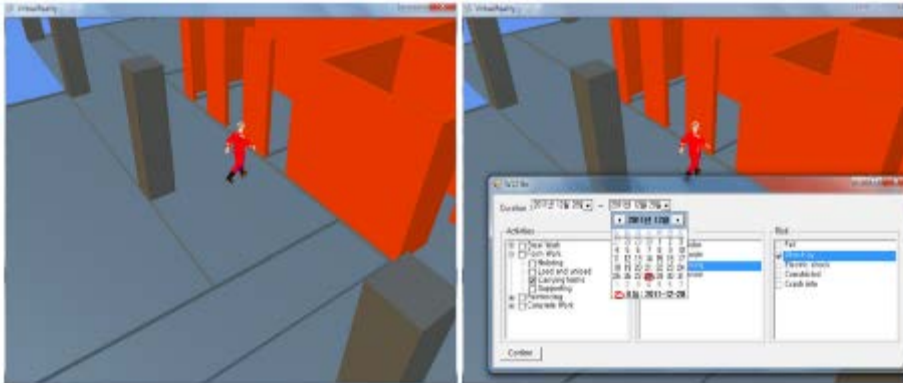
**Active Hands-On Training**



**Feedback**

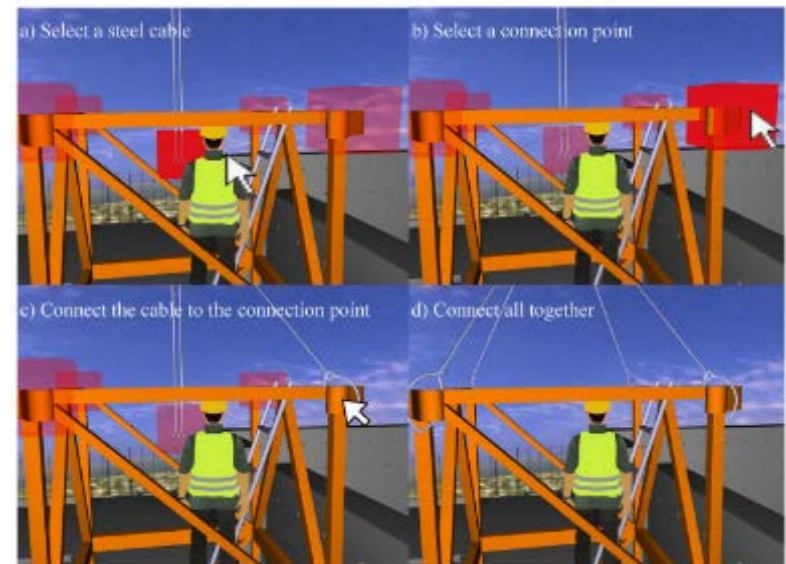


# Using Virtual Environments



***“A framework for construction safety management and visualization system”***  
***Park, C-S., and Kim, H-J. (2013)***

***Microsoft XNA Game Studio 4.0***



***“Using game technologies to improve the safety of construction plant operations”*** Guo et al. (2012)

***3DVIA Virtools***



# V-SAFE

---

- Virtual Safety Analysis For Engineering applications (V-SAFE) is a virtual reality based safety training tool.
- V-SAFE is based on the utilization of the Unreal Game Engine by virtue of the Unreal Software Development Kit.



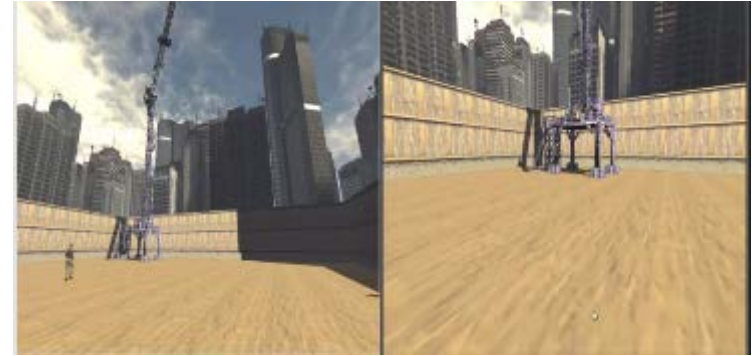


# V-SAFE: Features

---



**Crane Simulation**



**Multiuser Interaction**



**Surrounding Environment**

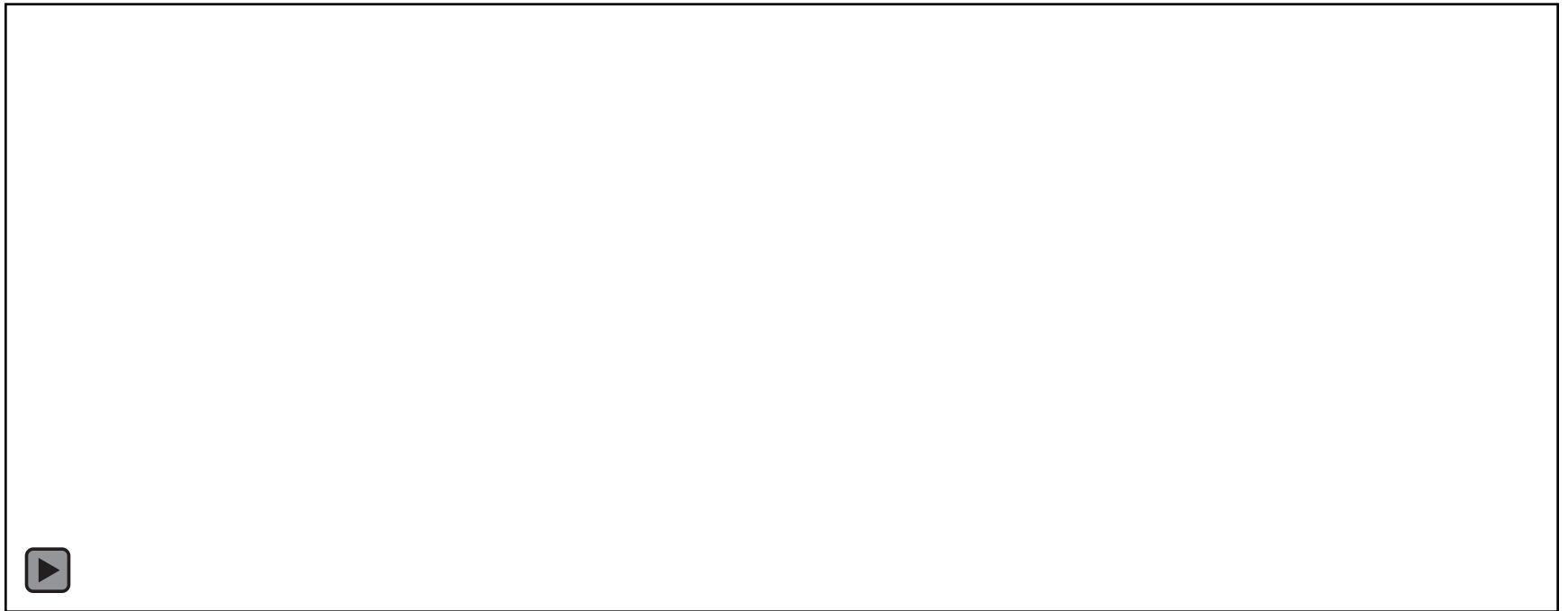


**Collision Detection System**



# V-SAFE: Demo

---



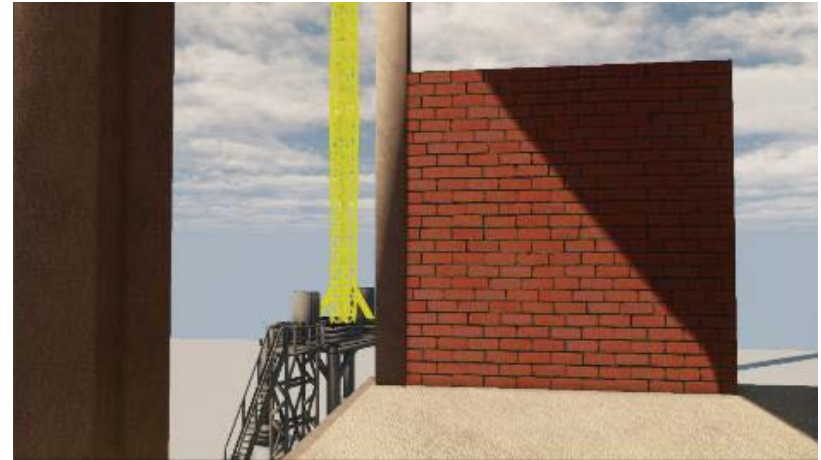




# V-SAFE: Alpha Study

---

- **Task:** Putting Up a Brick Wall
- **Roles:** Crane Operator, Site Workers, Safety Engineer
- **Goals:** Finishing the task without getting exposed to any accidents





# V-SAFE

---

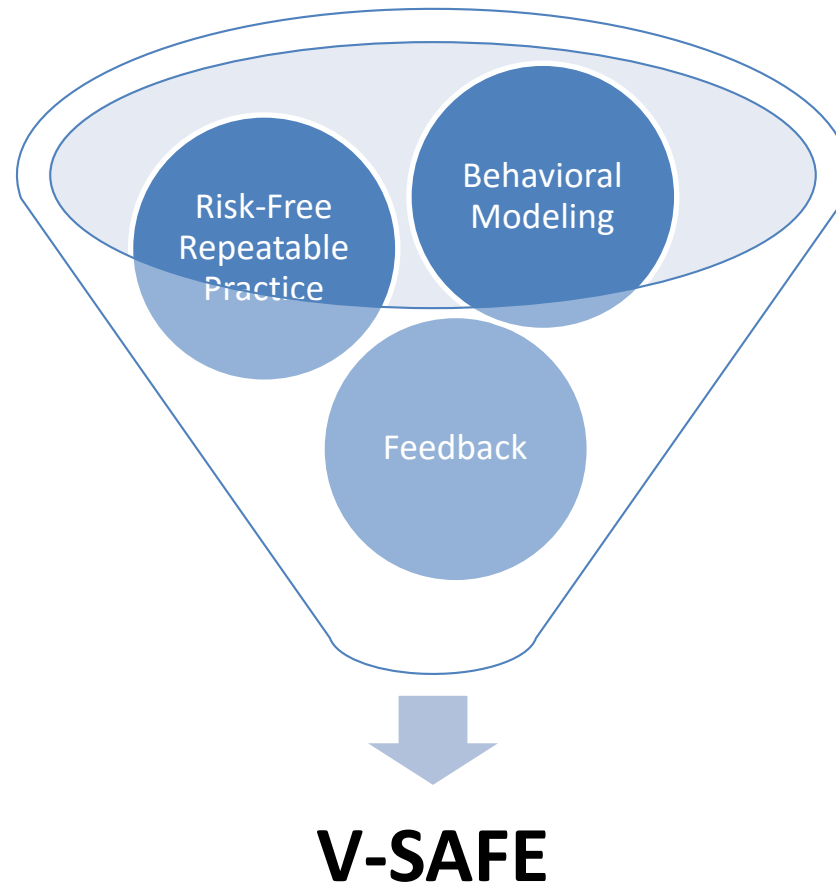
- ✓ Enhanced hazard identification
- ✓ Repeatable practical experience
- ✓ Spatial awareness
- ✓ Provision of the necessary collaboration between the users
- ✓ Knowledge transfer and interpretability of information
- ✓ Learning by doing approach





# Contributions

---





# Conclusion

---

- Safety management is a complex task in construction projects.
- Traditional learning methods fail to address the needs of the companies.
- This study fills the gap by recommending a highly engaging training method.
- Method could be beneficial to advance the effectiveness of the safety training



# Questions

---





# Thanks!

---

**Işık Ateş Kiral**

**E-mail:** ates.kiral@boun.edu.tr

**Telephone:** +90212 359 4473

**Semra Çomu**

**E-mail:** semra.comu@boun.edu.tr

**Telephone:** +90212 359 4841