



# Life Safety – an FPE Summer Camp

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## Introduction:

For my Practicum project I had the opportunity to teach and organize a camp about Fire Protection Engineering. Particularly focusing on Life Safety and the basic science behind fire.

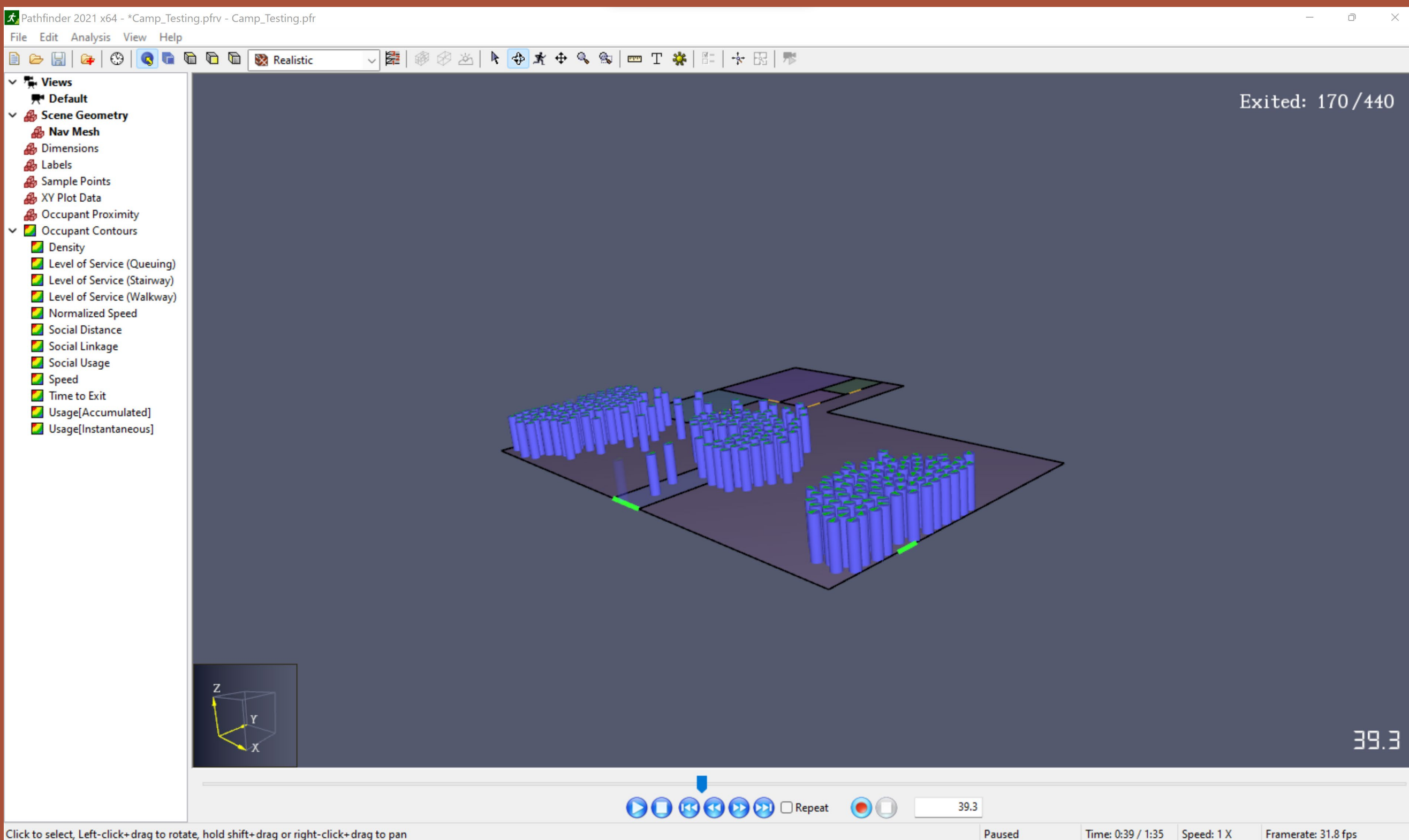


Image of the Pathfinder software that students learned could be used to model the egress time from a space. The particular scenario we discussed was The Station Night Club fire that killed 100 people. Students changed various aspects of the space to achieve the quickest exit time.

## Goals and Responsibilities:

- The primary goal was to keep my students engaged with the material and each other.
- Taught lessons in a lively manner and ensured interaction.
  - Showed various demonstrations and drew students in by asking them questions or following up with smaller group activities.
- Out of the box thinking to create “break” activities that focused on student interaction with camp material sprinkled throughout.



Our end of camp “group” picture with the students.

## My Key Takeaways from this Experience:

- A virtual environment requires much more creativity and effort for the organizers to create a meaningful and useful learning experience.
- Eye capturing graphics and videos helped students stay engaged as well as ask more questions about what they were seeing.
- Asking questions to those more experienced is crucial to properly convey the content to a new group of people.
- *Keep work fun.*
  - I had tremendous fun working with my team to organize this camp. As a result, I would occasionally pause and think “*How can I get my students to positively react?*”
- Always start with the basics and build knowledge from there.

### Fire Breaker: Timed Walk Exercise

#### Directions:

1. Get a stopwatch (phones work)
2. Go to the farthest corner of the room you are in
3. Start timer and [walk](#) out of the building/house
4. Stop timer
5. Please come back and enter your time in the chat



An example of a “break” activity that got students moving and thinking about evacuation time.

## Impact & Future Work:

Meeting and connecting with these high school students was a wonderful experience and as an ambassador to the Department of Fire Protection Engineering, I will be able to continue this work through other events.

## Challenges During Camp:

The camp was conducted fully virtual which resulted in difficulties for student involvement.

Additionally, out of the box thinking was needed to maintain student engagement with the material and peers.

## Camp Site Information:

Sponsored by: University of Maryland, Department of Fire Protection Engineering

Site Supervisor: Nicole Hollywood

“Our mission is to reduce the burden of fire loss on life and property by providing the highest quality of scientifically based education, research, and outreach in fire protection engineering, and in fire related safety, health, and environmental issues.” – Department of Fire Protection Engineering

## Acknowledgments:

Thank you to Nicole Hollywood for bringing me onto this project and always believing in me. Thank you to Dr. Holtz & Dr. Merck for allowing me to present this learning experience.



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