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*“I was in a fire drill that seemed poorly executed, and I came up with the **crazy idea of doing it through virtual reality**, to be able to address the weaknesses of conventional drills.”*

This is how Cristian Cázares explains the beginning of his In Case Of project: **virtual reality software** that aims to facilitate the work of **experts who face high risks**, such as **firefighters**.

Through this project, he wants to create an **immersive experience** that allows **users to be trained** in how to fight a fire through sensory stimulation.

AIMING TO BENEFIT SOCIETY

In Case Of has been adapted according to the eyewitness accounts and standards provided by experts from **the Sinaloa Civil Protection Department** and the **Culiacán Fire Department**.

*“The handling of the extinguisher is very realistic and it’s impressive how **the virtual environment resembles a real emergency**,”* commented Adán Shinagawa, the Culiacán Fire Chief.

According to Cristian, the software is focused not only on teaching the use of an extinguisher, but on **simulating the entire environment**.

*“It aims to simulate **the terror of being surrounded by scorching flames**, so that if users ever find themselves in an emergency, **they won’t be paralyzed by fear**,”* he explained.

He also highlights that it will **raise people’s awareness**, as he believes that they **underestimate the risk of fires**, something which anyone can face at any time and in almost any place.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHos0bgb_L0
Sample video of “In Case Of” virtual reality software.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

The project participated in the **Infomatrix** contest, organized by the **Latin American Society of Science and Technology**, in which projects from different science and technology categories compete.

The project achieved the following results in the contest:

- *Platinum Award at the Infomatrix Pacífico contest, held in Mazatlán, Sinaloa, in 2019.*
- *International Gold Award at the Infomatrix World Finals, held in Bucharest, Romania, in 2019.*

THE BEGINNINGS OF A PASSION

Cristian Cázares hails from **Culiacán, Sinaloa** and has been very interested in the world of **computers and technology** since he was a kid.

He is also passionate about music, having belonged to the **Esperanza Azteca Sinaloa Symphony Orchestra** for several years as **lead trumpet player**, and has experience as a **conductor of ensembles and choirs**.

During high school, he also gave **science and technology classes** to children as young as six and supported a **trio of students** in reaching an **intercontinental contest** in **Ecuador**.

Right now, Cristian is a freshman at **Tec de Monterrey's Sinaloa campus**, and was the recipient of a **Leaders of Tomorrow** scholarship.

This scholarship provides **100% support to talented students** with limited economic resources, so they can study their **degree at Tec de Monterrey**.

Regarding the process of becoming a "Leader of Tomorrow", he stressed that each step of his education **gave him the skills** necessary to allow the young man he has become to **follow his dreams**.

*"I had **moments of insecurity** about my abilities because there are many requirements, **but I ignored those feelings** and kept going. As they say, **if you don't ask, you don't get**,"* shared Cristian about the process.



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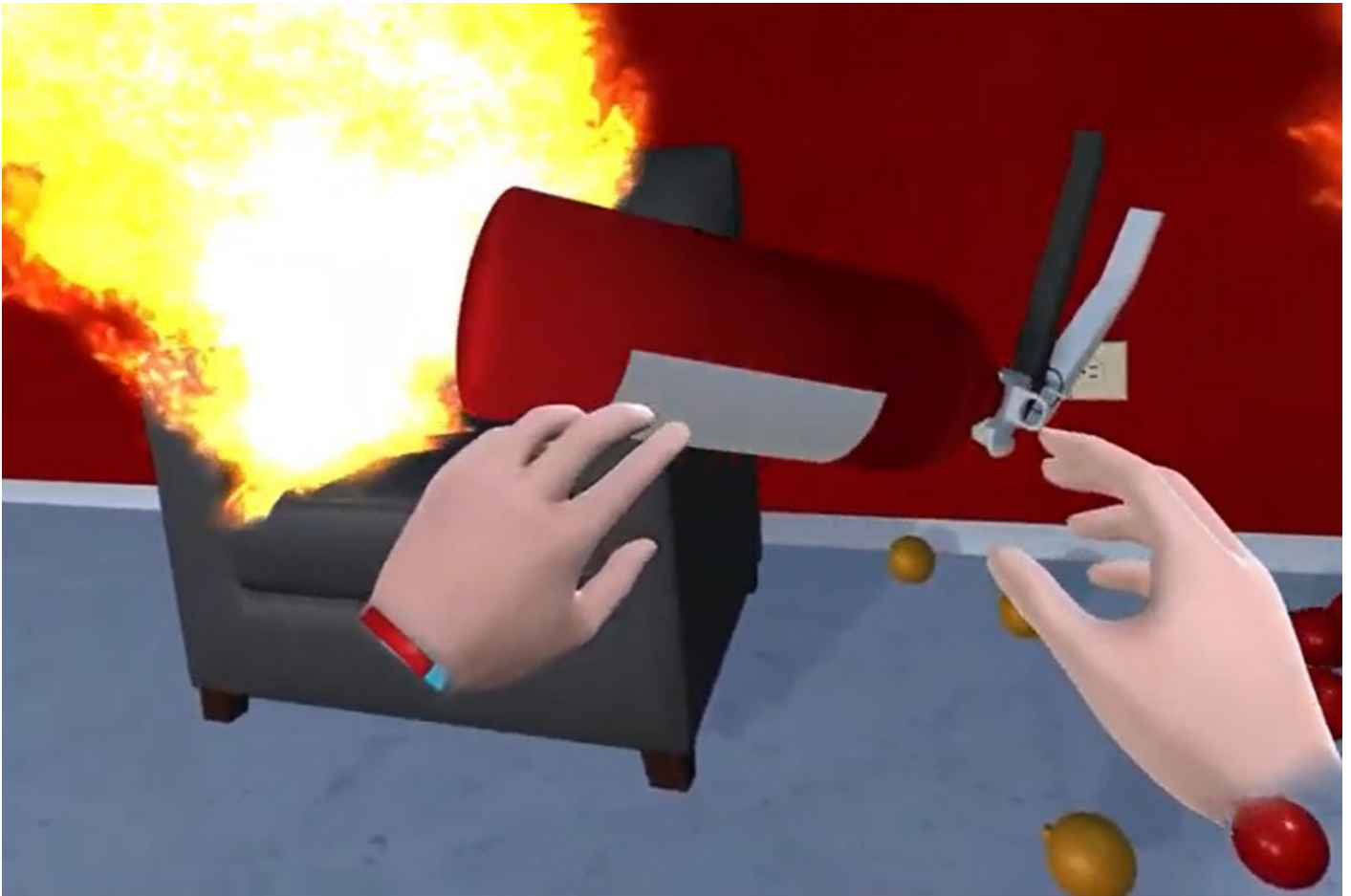
FUTURE PLANS

Regarding his start at university, he highlighted feeling a bit of uncertainty when beginning to **study online**, but stressed he felt **motivated to start**.

*“I’m **determined enough** to face all the challenges that will come, and to take advantage of all the opportunities to unleash my full potential,”* said the student.

Likewise, on the subject of the **In Case Of** project, he commented that it has not come to an end, as he considers that fighting fires is only the first phase.

*“The ultimate goal is to create **a whole gallery of drills** for both natural and non-natural emergencies, as well as developing strategies to make it an **accessible tool**,”* Cristian confirmed.



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Cosme Escobar, the manager of scholarships and educational credits at the Sinaloa campus, shared **high expectations** for Cristian's development as a professional.

*"I'm confident that he will take advantage of everything we offer as an institution, and I know that once he graduates, he will continue developing his project. **It will be an example for future generations to follow,**"* said Cosme.

Finally, Cristian recommended that young people **seek not only to profit** from what they are passionate about, but that they **use their passions for the benefit of others, too.**

*"How about developing a strategy to **help others by doing what we are passionate about?** In my case, it was software development, but it could be singing, dancing, sports, public speaking, math, video games, or anything else,"* he concluded.

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