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US Fire Department Enhances Aerial Safety with Dronetag RIDER

Achieving Real-Time Drone Detection in Emergency Response

Case Study Overview

This case study is based on real-world implementation and outcomes.
For reasons of legal compliance, operational safety, and client confidentiality, certain names and specifics have been anonymized.

Customer:
U.S. Fire Department

Industry:
Public Safety & Emergency Response

Location:
Hawaiian Islands

Product Used:
Dronetag RIDER, Dronetag Platform

Challenge

A U.S. fire department needed a lightweight, mobile solution to detect unauthorized drones during emergency operations - without relying on fixed infrastructure or complex setup.

Solution

They tested Dronetag RIDER, a pocket-sized Remote ID receiver that passively detects drones via Bluetooth and Wi-Fi. It delivers real-time data - including drone type, flight path, and pilot location - through the Dronetag and Drone Scanner apps, with no pairing or setup required.

Results

- Detected drones over 2 miles away
- Tracked multiple drones while on the move
- Mounted easily to vests or vehicle dashboards
- Improved helicopter airspace safety
- Ready to use out of the box, no training needed

“The results have been highly accurate in terms of using the RIDER for detection purposes. I am thoroughly impressed with this technology.”
- Field Test Lead

The Challenge

A U.S. fire department faced increasing challenges in maintaining safe airspace during emergency operations. Drones operated by civilians or unauthorized entities were frequently appearing near incident scenes, interfering with air support such as helicopters and complicating already critical missions. The department needed a lightweight, mobile solution to detect drones in real-time without relying on permanent infrastructure or complex deployments.

The Solution

To address these challenges, the department tested Dronetag RIDER - a lightweight, pocket-sized device designed to detect and visualize drones broadcasting Remote ID. RIDER works by passively listening for Bluetooth and Wi-Fi signals from compliant drones and displaying real-time data in the Dronetag or Drone Scanner apps.

The device requires no pairing or setup. It can be deployed in seconds, making it ideal for field teams who need instant airspace awareness. RIDER displays key telemetry such as drone type, location, heading, and the pilot's position (or take off position). Data can be shared directly via maps or exported for post-event analysis through mobile or web interface.

Designed for flexibility, RIDER is equally effective in mobile, vehicle-based, or stationary use - adapting easily to public safety workflows with minimal training required.

The Results

The department's field evaluation of Dronetag RIDER confirmed its effectiveness in real-world emergency response scenarios. The device provided immediate situational awareness and adapted well to dynamic operational environments.

1

Real-Time Detection

Identified a DJI M30T drone launched over 2 miles away

2

Mobile Monitoring

Tracked multiple drones while on the move, including pilot locations

3

Flexible Deployment

Mounted easily to vests or vehicles using a simple adhesive clip

4

Improved Safety

Helped secure airspace during critical operations involving helicopters

5

No Setup Required

Fully functional out of the box - intuitive for first responders

Experience with Dronetag

These insights are based entirely on feedback provided directly by the department after testing RIDER in the field.

The team first discovered Dronetag in an online drone forum and reached out to request a test unit. Dronetag responded immediately, offering a one-month evaluation period. Throughout the process, support was responsive and hands-on, allowing the department to explore RIDER's performance across multiple scenarios.

- **Fast & Helpful Support:** Immediate delivery and assistance with evaluation
- **Strong First Impressions:** Performance and ease of use exceeded expectations
- **Procurement Interest:** The department plans to purchase multiple units for ongoing use

Conclusion

By integrating Dronetag RIDER into their operations, the fire department has added a valuable layer of airspace awareness to support their aerial teams. With accurate, real-time drone detection in the field, crews can respond more safely and effectively - especially in dynamic, high-risk environments.

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