

Special Issue

Innovative Applications of UAVs in Search and Rescue: Improving Safety and Effectiveness

Message from the Guest Editors

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) have seen considerable development in recent years. Their increasing employment across diverse applications is frequently reported in both specialized publications as well as in public media flows. Among all possible missions, Search and Rescue (SAR) address the fundamental need to protect and preserve human life during emergencies and disasters. UAVs have the potential to transform the landscape of search and rescue (SAR) operations, offering real-time situational awareness, rapid deployment, and minimized risk to human responders. From natural disaster response to complex urban rescue missions, drone technology could deliver unprecedented capabilities for surveying hazardous areas, detecting survivors, and supporting emergency personnel in time-critical scenarios. Despite these advances, challenges persist regarding flight endurance, sensor integration, regulatory frameworks, and coordinated multi-drone operations.

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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Drones is the only international open-access journal about the science, policy and technology of drones and its applications. Nowadays, the proliferation of drones is a reality for local policy makers, regulatory bodies, mapping authorities, startups and consolidated companies. There are many uses and benefits of drones: from the emergence of new sensors and the evolution of new platforms; to the development of specific software and the emergence of new applications. *Drones* publishes reviews, regular research papers, communications and short notes, without restriction on the length of papers. *Drones* seeks to provide a central forum for scholars engaged in drones' research and applications.

There is a need for high quality papers in this area and the *Drones* Editorial Board are widely recognized international leaders. *Drones* journal guarantees a serious peer review and a rapid publication across the whole discipline of drones.

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