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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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (20 February 2026)

Drones

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 4.8
CiteScore 7.4

mdpi.com/si/229539

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Drones is an international open access journal focusing on advancing research in drone science, policy, technology, and applications. Today, drones have become indispensable for policymakers, regulatory authorities, mapping agencies, start-ups, and established firms. Their expanding societal and economic relevance is reflected in the rapid development of new sensors, upgraded platforms, specialized software, and novel applications. The journal provides a central forum for scholars in drone research and applications to exchange findings and innovations. With growing demand for high-quality research, our Editorial Board comprises international leaders and experts across relevant scientific areas. We offer rigorous peer review and rapid publication of papers from across all areas of drone science. We welcome you to submit your next paper to *Drones* and to contribute to the continued advancement of and innovations in the field of drones.

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