THE BAD SIDE OF UAS AND EMERGENCY PUBLIC SERVICE
May 7, 2016

Mercy Flight

- Over Phoenix and responding to transport patient from Yreka, CA to Fairchild Medical Center.

- Drone passed within 25 – 50 feet at an altitude of 1,400’

- At 12:10 AM
Flight for Life - Waukesha

• Responding to the scene

• Fire chief and sheriff’s deputy noticed the drone flying about 100’ over the helicopter and said nothing at the time

• Law enforcement did find the person who admitted to flying over the scene

• At 3:30 AM
Sheriff’s Department – Reno, NV

- Dropping water on a 300 acre wildfire in the Sierra.
- Drone passed under his nose at 400’
Trailhead Fire – California

- Fire covered 5,600 acres
- Three injured – hundreds evacuated.
- Three incidents of drones interfering with fire retardant plane drops

- Eric Wamser, 57 yo California man arrested
  - Misdemeanor for interfering with firefighting efforts
Carrara, Australia

- Westpac LifeSaver Rescue helicopter
- Routine patrol at 200’
An escalating problem..

FAA reported sightings from manned aircraft

- 2014 - Less than 1 per day
- 2015 – Over 3 per day
SO WHY IS IT SO MUCH A CONCERN?
The type of flying...

Airplanes – usually about 3,000’

Helicopters – usually 1,500 – 3,000’
- Corporate
- Delivery
- Logging, ENG, line/pipe patrol

And then there’s us…
Public Safety
Fixed Wing and Rotor Wing

• Usually closer to the ground
• Multiple missions
• Multiple distractions
• Unknown/uncontrolled landing areas (RW)
• Drones can be hidden in the background
Drones can distort depth perception.
Develop a clear SOPs for your use of drones
- Who, what, when, why
- Limits on use
- Training and licensing
- Recurrent training
- When not to use (other aircraft around)
- Maintenance and care
So what can and is being done?

Develop a clear SOPs for others use of drones
- Who do you notify
  - Local Authorities
  - FAA
  - TSA
  - FBI?
- What actions can you immediately take
So what can and is being done?

Work with local and state legislators

- Utah lets authorities jam drone signals
- Follows June 21, 2016 Saddle Fire
  - near Pine Valley, Utah
So what can and is being done?

Battelle Drone Defender
So what can and is being done?

Drone Defender
So what can and is being done?

Drone capture
The use of UAS is just beginning...

The future is yours!