

Emergency Drone Dispatch System (EDDS) at Hiking Trails

This proposal aims to use drones, a.k.a unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), to establish an emergency dispatch system at hiking trails which provides timely drinking water supply to stranded hikers suffered from severe dehydration as well as fatigue. In the long run, we anticipate the service scope can be extended to delivery of critical survival kits.

Methodology

It is suggested to start a pilot scheme with several hiking or trekking black spots. Once the black spots are identified, drones and operators will be deployed at relevant or nearby country park management centres, which must be equipped with signal receivers for MyMap HK app. If a hiker is running out of drinking water and feels his life is in peril, he can open the SOS page menu on MyMap HK app to send a request for "water". Then a signal, together with the person's location and contact number, will be sent to the nearest management centre where a trained drone operator will input the received GPS coordinates in a drone. Subsequently, the drone will take off and carry pre-designed drinking water packs to the hiker. Depending on the result of the pilot scheme, we hope to extend EDDS to all hiking black spots in Hong Kong.