

Safety & Security Technologies



What's new in the Technology for Risk Management, as related to safety and security ? Can you say "Drone" ? Yes you read it correctly, I said drones ! Over the past five years, drones have been making great progress in the ability of better control and carry a wider range of payloads.

It started out as a "Toy Like" device to entertainment. Now a new and thriving industry has emerged with estimated 20 billion dollar a year sale forecast. Drone now have the ability to carry very high end photographic equipment that allows the operator an unobstructed view of almost anyone or anywhere. We now have drones that not only carry surveillance packages, but also can be used to track individuals in a limited environment. Law Enforcement agencies are researching their use not only for surveillance, but as a new tool in the tactical arena. Fire Departments are seeing an advantage in using drones with heat monitoring equipment for rescues and advance planning for fighting fire in urban setting.

So what does this have to do with us as Risk Managers ? Several new questions have come to light. To use these device as a surveillance or installation protective tools, will bring the right to privacy advocates to their feet. There will also be a liability issue with drones that malfunction causing property damage or personal injury. This is not even taking into account the legislation that surly will be passed to limit and in some cases band their use. So as an operator or someone concerned with a possible threat, we will see both sides of this issue in our jobs sooner than later.

What are we to do when these devices are used against us or our properties ? What is he talking about ? ? There has already been incidents of drones being used by the criminal elements to serral homes and business for burglaries. Mass incarceration facilities have already experience drones being used to move contraband into the prison yards, for recovery by inmates. Military Reservations are keenly aware of drones being used to gain intelligence about security and possible ingress routes. Many challenges await this technology for the operators and those who perceive a threat.

The cost of these units are coming down every month. These device are brisling with many new innovations, which make legislating their control a constant updating process. For those who legislations means nothing, the threat of militarized drones are not only real but just a matter of time before deployment. Take a look at this issue and get ahead of the curve, for your employers.