

New drone will help Haywood County emergency crews save lives

by Stephanie Santostasi | Friday, July 15th 2022



Haywood County Emergency Management's new drone on July 15, 2022. (Photo credit: WLOS Staff)



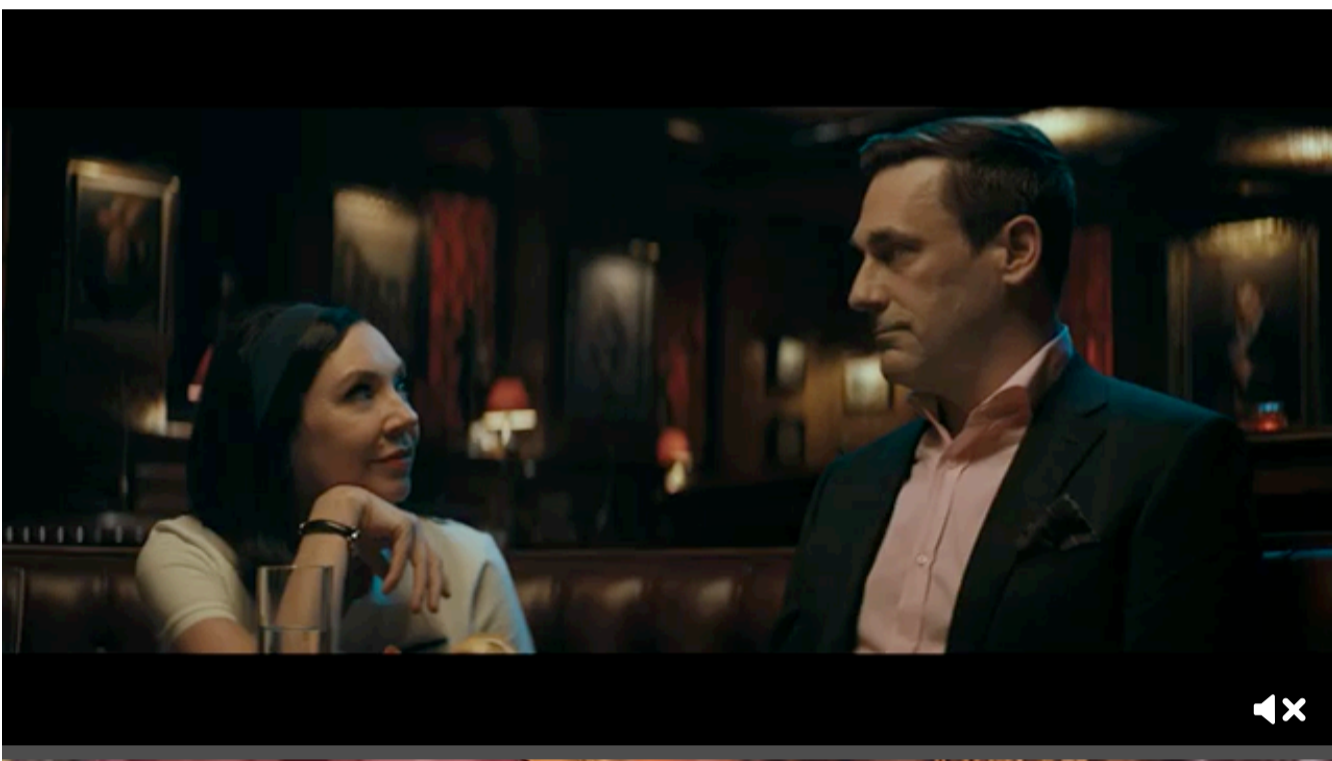
HAYWOOD COUNTY, N.C. (WLOS) — New technology in Haywood County will help emergency responders save lives.



WLOS

The emergency management department recently invested in its own drone. It was paid for mostly by a grant the county received.

The team is finishing up training on it, but it's ready to go now if needed in an emergency situation.



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For several years, Haywood County has benefitted from the assistance of volunteer drone pilots. Now it can respond more quickly to disasters, like flooding, for example, with its own DJI drone.

It comes equipped with four different cameras which can provide a variety of views for all situations. The drone also has the capability to carry a spotlight and speaker, which can be used to communicate with people on the ground.



Footage from Haywood County Emergency Management's new drone on July 15, 2022. (Photo credit: Haywood County Emergency Management)

"Having our own drone here in the department gives us the ability to deploy it much faster. We don't have to wait for outside agencies or volunteer pilots to come in. We can get started right away if we have something that we need to work on," said Allison Richmond, Haywood County emergency services PIO.

The drone is also weather-proof.

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"This has thermal capabilities so - and it also functions in bad weather which is something that not all drones do. So, this gives us a chance to get up even while it's still raining. And to try to start rescuing or looking for people who might be lost," added Richmond.

Haywood County will also be available to provide services to other departments and agencies across the region as needed.

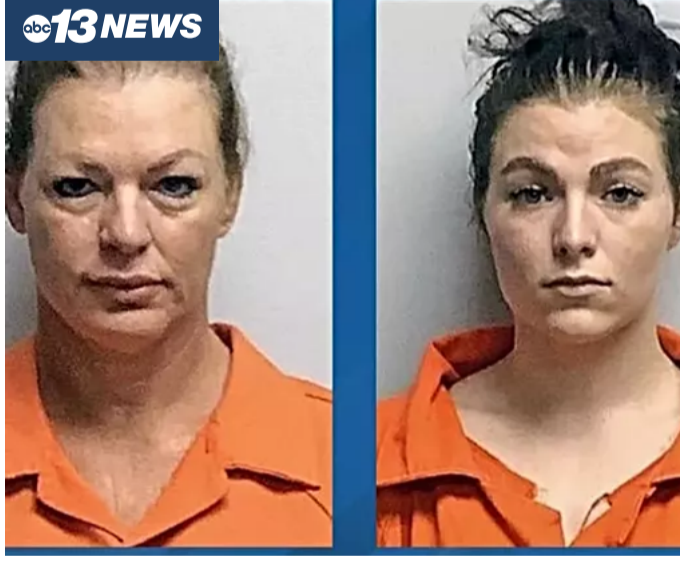
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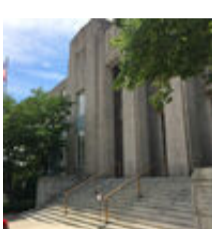
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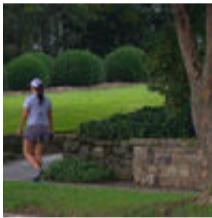
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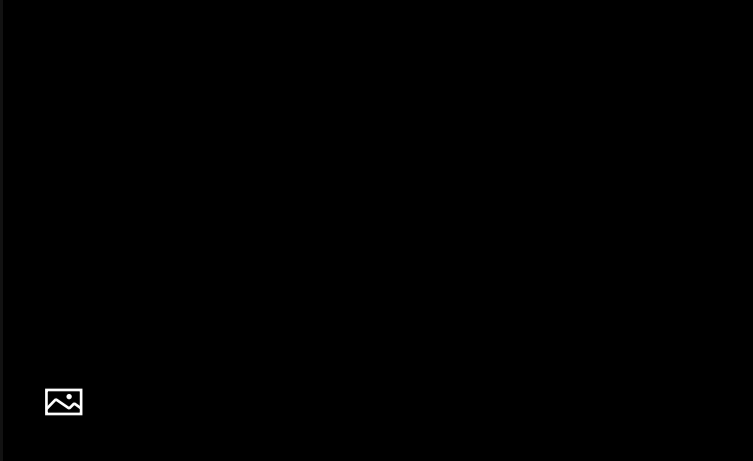
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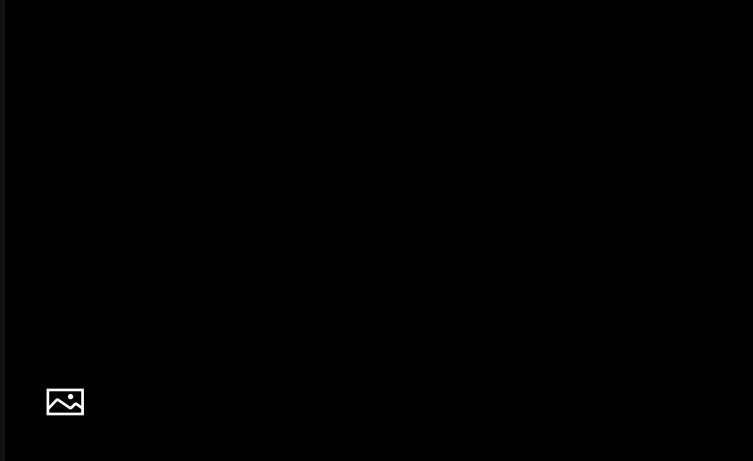
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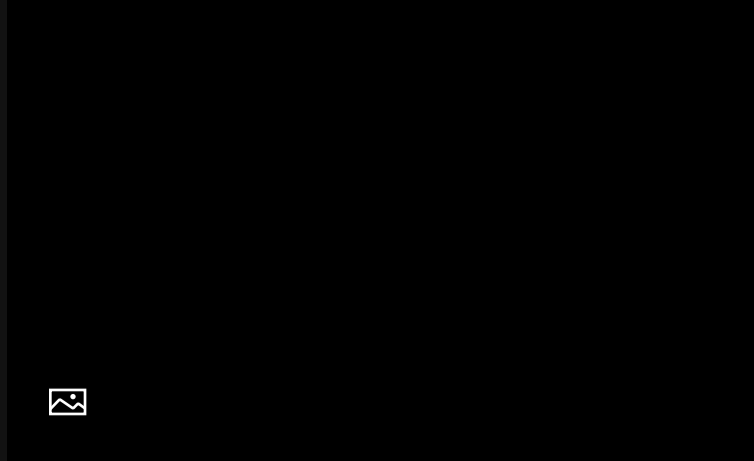
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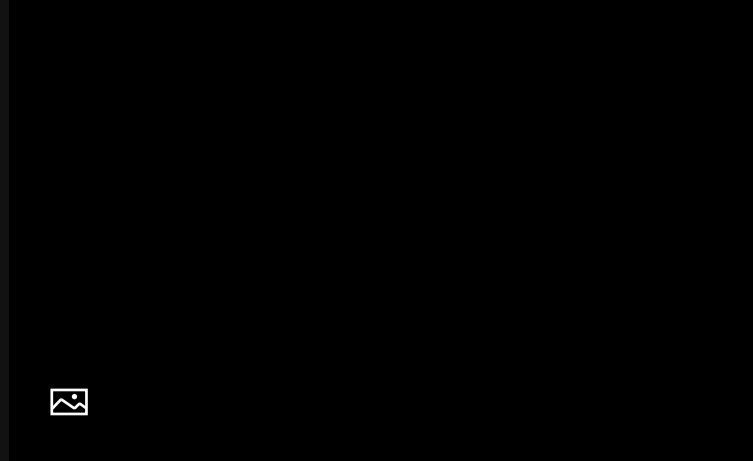
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