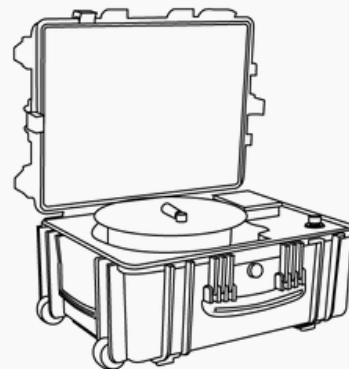


Firefighters' Gas Leak Monitoring Exercise

Port-la-Nouvelle, France,
November 2023



The exercise took place at an industrial site in Port-La-Nouvelle, France, and mobilized various teams, including specialized chemical risk units and a drone unit. The scenario simulated a gas leak on a transport wagon, putting the teams in realistic conditions to test their preparedness and response capability.



Solution

SDIS 11 (Departmental Fire and Rescue Service 11) were looking for a solution that could provide continuous surveillance during emergency situations. Elistair's Ligh-T tether station was chosen to meet the needs of this particular requirement due to its ability to extend a drone's flight time to several hours. This resulted in the success of this particular exercise.

“The main advantage of a tethered drone and its permanent surveillance is that we can assess the effectiveness of our actions in the field and enable our teams to evolve safely under the supervision of experts in each specialty: fire, personal protection and others. **Deputy Chief Stéphane Bousquet, Firefighter and Departmental Technical Referent RPAS.**”



Unlimited power



8 minutes set up time



3Km coverage



Information transmission and decision-making

One of the key aspects of a tethered drone is its ability to transmit images in real time to the SDIS central server, enabling rapid, informed decision-making. "The drone enables us to transmit images directly to our central server at SDIS, so we can share this information and query our server remotely" explains Stéphane Bousquet. This feature ensures that decisions taken by the emergency operations command are based on up-to-date, accurate information.

“Information is the lifeblood of an operation. If we have the right information at the right time, we're more likely to make the best decisions.”



Result of the mission

At the end of the exercise, a technical debriefing confirmed the complementarity between the use of a tethered drone and a "classic" drone, making it possible to combine continuous vision and mobility. Feedback underlined the effectiveness of the tools deployed, reinforcing the Emergency Operations Center's ability to effectively manage rescue operations.

The success of this mission opens up new possibilities for SDIS 11, such as forest fire surveillance. In this case, the tethered drone provides a clear, continuous view of burnt areas, enabling rapid, targeted intervention and reducing the risk of fires spreading.

“Tethered drones and conventional drones are not competitors, but complementary.”

- Stéphane Bousquet, Deputy Chief of SDIS 11, Firefighter and Departmental technical referent