DFR for Academic Campuses: Campus safety demands complete coverage
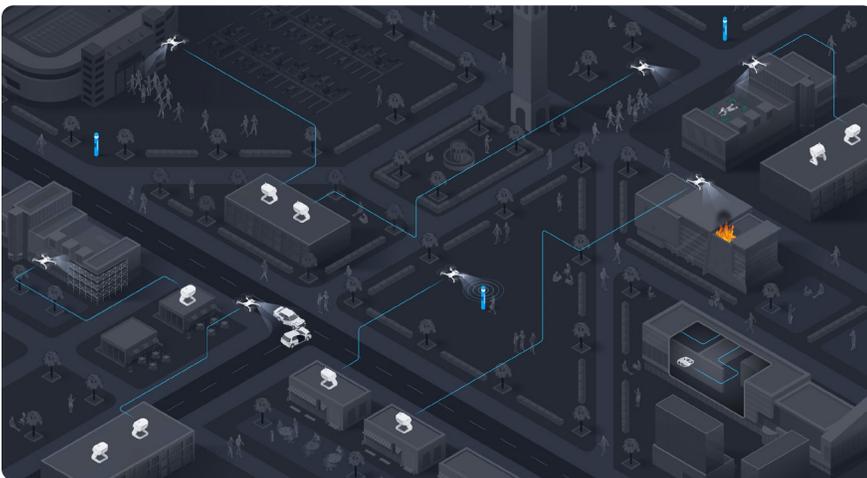
Skydio Drone as First Responder (DFR) is a force multiplier that expands situational awareness and strengthens safety across daily operations, major events, and critical incidents.

Academic campuses operate like small cities, with major events, constant movement, and incidents that unfold quickly. Calls come in simultaneously from quads, residence halls, garages, and stadiums. Large events pull officers away from routine calls, while incidents arrive with limited detail, adding pressure to teams already stretched thin. Skydio DFR gives campus safety teams immediate situational awareness with autonomous drones that launch in seconds, showing responders what's happening so they can act faster and stay safer.

Expand coverage and respond faster across the entire campus.

Skydio DFR puts an autonomous aerial asset on your team, airborne in seconds to provide live video and expanded situational awareness for informed decision-making across routine calls and critical incidents alike.

A faster first response.

When a 911 call, blue-light activation, or safety notification comes in, a Skydio drone launches automatically and arrives in under two minutes.

More eyes on major events.

At football games, concerts, and commencements, drones provide real-time awareness that helps teams cover more ground, manage crowds, and keep emergency routes clear—without pulling officers from other calls.

Safer escorts and extended nighttime reach.

Autonomous flight paths along walkways, residence halls, and parking areas extend coverage at night without adding staff. Privacy-based flight policies keep operations transparent and built for public trust.
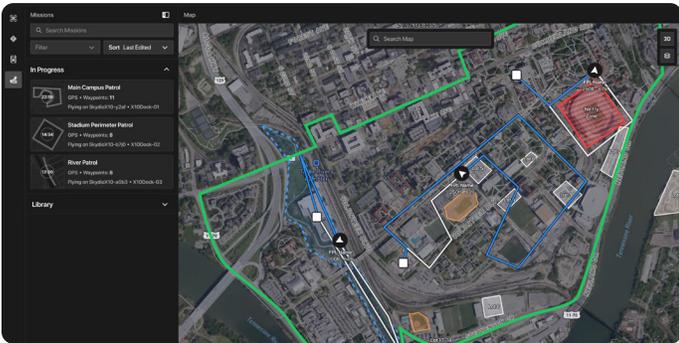
Clarity in critical moments.

During threats, searches, or lab emergencies, DFR gives command staff a live view before officers arrive, turning guesswork into guided action for faster, safer responses.

From alert to action.

Once an alert is triggered, the nearest drone is already en route. Within moments, dispatchers and responders gain the context they need to act decisively and coordinate safely.
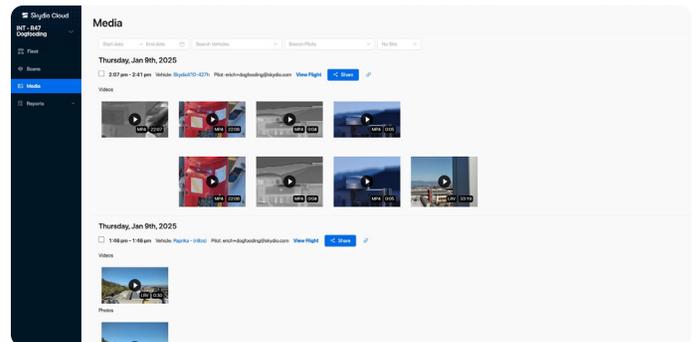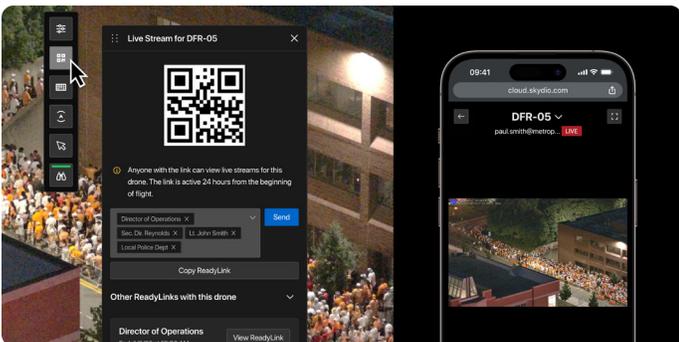

Plan ahead.

Prepare campus operations before the semester starts by planning missions, rehearsing responses, and running automated patrols so coverage is in place before students arrive.

Assess the scene.

As the drone arrives, live video streams to dispatch, command staff, and officers, giving teams immediate visibility to prioritize the right response.

Guide responding units.

Dispatch shares a ReadyLink to officers for real-time coordination, visual context, and direction toward safe entry points or staging areas.

Resolve and review.

Officers reach the scene informed and focused. Once the incident concludes, footage is automatically stored for training, after-action review, or evidentiary purposes.

"As an incident commander, it gives me a visual I can't get any other way. What the drone sees is live streamed directly to our command post. There also is a link that can be shared and, with it, you can pull up what the drone sees on your computer or phone."

Michael Newton, Associate VP of Public Safety and Chief of Police
Iowa State University