

Drone as First Responder

A clear picture before responders arrive.

With DFR, a trained, authorized operator launches a drone to an emergency call or another permitted public safety mission, often before responders arrive. Live video shows which lanes a crash has blocked, where a missing person has wandered, where a foot pursuit is headed, or what officers are walking into. Like a body-worn camera in the sky, DFR also creates an objective record of what happened, supporting accountability.

The right aircraft for the mission.



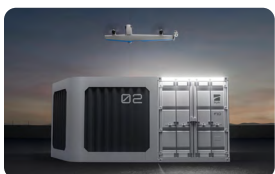
Core response: X10 and Dock for X10.

Drones positioned near high call demand can support alarms, disturbances, crashes, and crimes in progress. Officers can also launch X10 from patrol vehicles. Multiple aircraft support overlapping calls.



Indoor response: R10.

Officers launch R10 on scene to see rooms, hallways, and stairwells before entering. They can fly directly with the controller or transfer control to a remote operator through DFR Command.



Extended response: F10 Lightrunner and MegaDock.

F10 is a fixed-wing drone that reaches distant incidents quickly and stays on scene longer. It keeps eyes on a fleeing vehicle from the air, and supports extended incidents and large searches, keeping X10s available for other calls. MegaDock launches and recovers it with no runway or field launch crew.

The command center for DFR.



DFR Command brings X10, R10, and F10 into one workflow, connecting the call to the aircraft, live video to responders, and the mission to the record.

How a DFR response works:

1. Identify the need.

A 911 call, dispatcher, or officer's request identifies a potential mission. Agency policy determines when DFR may be used.

2. Launch and supervise.

A trained, authorized operator manages the mission. A drone launches remotely within seconds from a dock, which protects and charges it between flights, or an officer launches one in the field. Flight automation assists navigation; the operator monitors the mission and can redirect or end it.

3. Share live information.

Authorized dispatchers, responders, and command staff can view live video on a phone or computer and receive updates from the operator.

4. Decide how to respond.

Responders use that information to plan their approach and coordinate assistance. Agency personnel may resolve some calls without sending an officer when policy permits. The drone provides information; agency personnel remain responsible for response decisions and assistance on the ground.

5. Close and document the mission.

The drone returns to its dock or is recovered in the field. Media is automatically uploaded to digital evidence systems. Flight records and video support accountability and evidence handling under published policies.

A program accountable to the community.

Public trust begins with clear commitments about what a DFR program will do, what it will not do, and how the agency will be held accountable. These seven principles govern leading DFR programs.

Make our community safer through faster, better-informed emergency response.

Help first responders arrive sooner, de-escalate dangerous situations, avoid unnecessary police-citizen interactions, reduce unnecessary uses of force and high-speed pursuits, and save lives.

Preserve public trust through transparency.

Publish information about flights on a regularly updated public dashboard, make policies publicly available, and produce an annual public report on the program's activities, outcomes, and compliance.

Limit every flight to a specific, authorized public-safety purpose.

Use DFR for emergency response and other limited, clearly defined purposes, not random patrols, persistent monitoring, or mass surveillance. It is a targeted response tool, not a general surveillance system.

Keep cameras focused on the mission, not private life.

Focus the camera on the emergency or authorized mission. Do not use DFR to look into windows or backyards, or to observe people or activities unrelated to the mission. While traveling to and from a scene, minimize viewing unrelated people and private property.

Record DFR flights for accountability and promptly delete non-evidentiary video.

Like body-worn cameras, DFR provides an objective record that strengthens accountability. Record each flight from launch to landing, and promptly delete non-evidentiary video unless it is needed as evidence or required by law.

Protect data from misuse and unauthorized access.

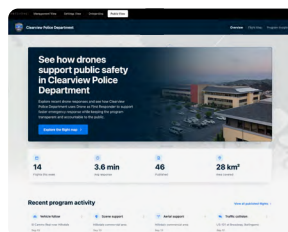
Store video securely and allow access only by authorized personnel performing legitimate official duties. Share it outside the department only as specifically authorized by policy. Log and audit access and sharing.

Require training, supervision, and regular audits.

Allow only trained and authorized personnel to operate DFR missions. Train them in aviation safety, privacy, constitutional rights, authorized uses, and evidence handling. Supervisors oversee the program, and regular audits verify compliance with rules governing flights, camera use, data access, sharing, retention, and deletion.

Transparency built into the platform.

DFR Command includes a public transparency dashboard explaining when, where, and why drones flew. Agencies choose the location and incident detail published. The dashboard shares flight information; recorded video is managed under applicable evidence, privacy, and disclosure policies. Skydio does not operate a database or network of DFR video or other agency data that is searchable across agencies. Each agency's data stays in its own account, under its own policies. Agencies should explain how sensitive information is protected and how residents can raise concerns.



What to plan before launch:

Sites.

Start with the calls and areas to serve. Choose dock locations with reliable power, network connectivity, and safe launch and landing access.

People.

Set operating hours and determine staffing early, including who will fly, supervise, and maintain equipment. Train personnel before launch.

Approvals and policy.

Begin the FAA approval process early. Skydio's regulatory team supports agencies through waivers and approvals. Prepare and publish agency policies, including how expanded uses will be approved.

Systems and budget.

Coordinate with IT on dispatch and evidence integrations. Explain connected systems and their capabilities to the community. Budget for installation and ongoing operations.

Contingencies.

Plan for weather, airspace limits, equipment failures, and lost connections. Emergency response continues when a drone cannot fly.

A shared community resource.

The same aircraft and dock infrastructure can support police, fire, emergency management, transportation, and public works. Separately authorized missions can include fire assessment, missing-person searches, roadway incident verification, and infrastructure inspections. Each department needs defined uses, responsibilities, data access, retention, and public reporting.

Build a DFR program your community can understand and trust.