The Feasibility and Public Perception of Implementing AED Drones Into EMS Systems

Bryant , Emily (School: Thousand Oaks High School)

Drone technology has become a trailblazing feat in the scientific community and research is beginning to branch into the possibility of implementing drones into emergency response situations, with the hope of saving lives through delivering supplies such as AED machines. An AED or automated external defibrillator can revive a heart during cardiac arrest, returning the heart to its natural rhythm. With cardiac arrest rates continuing to rise and the concern around delayed EMS response times, AED drone studies have emerged within the past decade however research regarding the public's perception of drone system implementation is extremely limited. Using a survey method of data collection, this project aims to gauge the potential concerns, existing knowledge, and perceptions of the public regarding AED drone system implementation in communities. Individuals' responses will be analyzed and correlated to gauge a clearer path toward the feasibility of on-ground implementation, bringing a user-based perspective to assist in filling a current gap in existing medical drone research. Examining public perceptions allow researchers to better understand how to construct and implement AED drone systems in a way that best suits the individuals they are designed to serve.

Awards Won:

Central Intelligence Agency: Second Award: $300