



Sheriff
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DRONE TRAINING EXERCISE

Recently, the Sioux County Sheriff's Office completed training with their drone. This training was held at the Royal Meadows Care Center with Sioux Center Health staff, in Sioux Center, IA.

The scenario that was practiced was one where a staff-role player with dementia wandered into a nearby cornfield and search parties could not locate the person. The Sheriff's Office drone team was able to successfully locate the person in the cornfield a short time after joining the search.

The drone is able to detect heat signatures given off by live objects as well as offer live views through zoom and infrared video cameras mounted on the drone. This exercise allowed the drone operators the opportunity to use different settings to help locate the person. These settings can also be used in various combinations to adapt to different light and weather conditions.

The Sheriff's Office drone team consists of FAA certified small-unmanned aircraft (sUAs) pilots; they are Chief Deputy Nate Huizenga, Capt. Jamie Van Voorst and Sioux County Information Technology staff Micah Van Maanen and Josh Dykstra.

