Measure Uses DJI Inspire to Assist Verizon in Inspecting Cell Towers Post-Hurricane Matthew

“We were able to collapse the time to repair this site to 8 hours versus potentially several days.”
– Chris Moccia, EVP of Infrastructure at Measure

CUSTOMER:
Verizon

FOCUS:
Cell Tower Inspections, Disaster Response

SOLUTION:
Inspire 1 with Zenmuse X5 Camera

In early October 2016, Hurricane Matthew, a powerful Category 4 storm with wind speeds of up to 120 mph, swept through the Caribbean to the coasts of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. When it landed, a reported forty-three in the U.S. died with hundreds more abroad. Business intelligence group CoreLogic estimated the cost of damage to be somewhere between $4-$6 billion.

But Verizon — one of the largest communication companies in the world — was able to successfully complete the inspection of their cell towers, in the Carolinas, by working with leading drone service company, Measure, to deploy a fleet of DJI Inspire 1 Pro drones in the wake of the hurricane, bringing communications and infrastructure back online quickly for their customers.

CHALLENGE:
As areas came to be menaced by heavy flooding, a number of Verizon cell tower sites became inaccessible by ground. Verizon needed a way to negotiate these increasingly dangerous sites in order to fix them otherwise, teams risked wasting time by arriving at a site unprepared and without a clear approach strategy.

SOLUTION:
Measure, equipped with a fleet of DJI drones, assisted Verizon in inspecting 5 cell sites across North and South Carolina. This enabled Verizon to quickly determine requirements for repair across their regional network.

With post-hurricane operations now focused on obtaining aerial imagery, Measure were able to use DJI's Inspire 1 Pro to record and live stream full HD video and photographs to Verizon's engineers, allowing them to better plan the resuscitation of cell equipment in hard-hit areas such as, Elm City, North Carolina, and the Tar River Reservoir.
RESULTS:

By delivering vital UAV information, Measure helped expedite Verizon’s cell tower recovery efforts by giving their technicians the ability to pinpoint specific problems. They then used boats to reach generators that needed refueling the most, so that wireless services could be maintained throughout the area. In the end, 99 percent of Verizon’s cell sites were recovered and fully operational for their customers who needed working communication networks at such a critical time.

Generated a Variety of Deliverables

The DJI Inspire 1 Pro was used to provide crucial data for the Verizon team by immediately visualizing and identifying:

Damaged Equipment, such as:
- Antennas
- Coaxial cables
- Remote radio heads
- Optical fiber

Potential hazards to Verizon’s repair team:
- Exposed wires
- Leaking diesel
- Flooded approach paths

PARTNER: MEASURE

Reach out to DJI or Measure to start using drones for your business:
DJI Enterprise: enterprise.dji.com/contact-us
Measure: info@measure.aero

Learn more about commercial applications of drones at:
enterprise.dji.com