

# Drones Aiding Utility Companies

**Edgy Labs Media** – The New York Power Authority (NYPA), the largest public power company in the U.S., and Ontario Power Generation, a Canadian utility company, have teamed up to test the potential of using drones for infrastructure inspection.

It has been more than three years since the first utility drone program (Semptra's San Diego Gas & Electric) was authorized by the FAA and since then, utility companies across the country have begun to integrate drones in some capacity of their inspection, survey and management operations.

With the ability to be remotely-controlled and to carry video cameras and sensors, drones can perform a variety of data collection tasks for utility companies. Drones can also access utility in-



frastructure located in remote, hard-to-reach, and dangerous areas. Tech companies, such as Cyberhawk Innovations, specializing in utility industry drone inspection and surveys, offers apps and technology programs that are already being used in 20 countries.

NYPA indicates that using drones for beyond visual line of sight inspections could save up to 50% on costs compared to conventional methods.



## SUPER BOWL HAT GIVEAWAY

The Minnesota Regional CGA organized a massive 811 trapper hat giveaway in downtown Minneapolis near Super Bowl Live, during Super Bowl Week. More than 2,000 hats were distributed in two hours! The hats were distributed to everyone from news crews to police and fire fighters, as well as to at least 50 homeless individuals.

Everyone who received a hat had to answer the burning question, "What number do you call before you dig?" Word got out and by the end of the two hours, people were running into the Excel Energy tent yelling "811" so they could get a hat. The hats were worn all week around the Super Bowl activities and will be worn for years to come. A huge thanks to Gopher State One Call and Xcel Energy for sponsoring the hats.

## LSAW Shout-Out

Established in 2014 by Infrastructure Resources and endorsed by Nulca, Locator Safety Awareness Week (LSAW) addresses the need to keep our locators safe on the job. During the week of April 22 - April 28, we encourage you to acknowledge the locators you work with and let them know how much you appreciate the difficult, challenging, and sometimes dangerous work they do protecting our underground utilities.

Help promote the awareness of the hazards related to utility locating by posting on Facebook and Twitter during the week using #LSAW. Need some help on what to say? Visit [dp-pro.com/locator-safety-awareness-week/](http://dp-pro.com/locator-safety-awareness-week/) for some suggestions! 

**LSAW**  
Locator Safety Awareness Week

