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## Punjab Bolsters Emergency Response with Advanced Drones

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The Punjab Civil Defence Department has introduced drone technology designed to enhance emergency response operations, including the rescue of individuals from high-rise buildings, fire-affected areas, and remote locations. The initiative was launched on August 8, 2025, at the Civil Secretariat in Lahore, according to the Punjab Home Department.

During the launch event, attended by Provincial Health Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafique and Punjab Home Secretary Dr. Ahmad Javed Qazi, a live demonstration was conducted. A drone successfully airlifted a

60-kilogram dummy, simulating the evacuation of a person from a hazardous environment. The demonstration aimed to show the potential of drones in situations where access is difficult, such as multi-story buildings during fires or areas cut off by natural disasters.

In addition to the rescue drones, the Civil Defence showcased other new equipment, including bomb disposal robots, anti-drone guns, snake cameras, and mine detectors. The demonstration featured a bomb disposal robot neutralizing a simulated explosive device in a location deemed inaccessible for personnel. Officials stated that these technologies are intended to strengthen the department's ability to respond to various emergencies and hazardous situations.

Speaking at the event, Rafique noted that Civil Defence personnel are often the first to respond during floods and other emergencies and that the provision of advanced tools will improve their operational capabilities. Dr. Qazi stated that the department is undergoing upgrades to align with international standards. He added that a mobile application is in development to register citizens as volunteers for emergency support.

The Punjab government has allocated 500 million Pakistani rupees from the Internal Security Fund for the modernization of Civil Defence. According to official information, this funding is being used to acquire new equipment and to train over 118,000 individuals in emergency evacuation, firefighting, and first aid. The training is conducted in collaboration with Rescue 1122.

Officials also reported that Civil Defence units have intercepted and neutralized 29 drones originating from across the border during recent periods of heightened security tensions. They stated that these measures form part of broader efforts to protect public safety and address both emergency response and security requirements.

The introduction of rescue drones and other specialized equipment is part of an ongoing modernization program aimed at improving the speed and effectiveness of emergency responses across Punjab.