

How Qwake and 5G technology could someday help firefighters save more lives

The challenge

Firefighters are in a race against time whenever they respond to a fire. Their first goal is to rescue people who may be trapped in the burning structure or vehicle. Smoke inhalation is the greatest danger, since it can quickly kill or render a person incapacitated.¹ Lack of light, smoke, and poor visibility often hinder firefighters' efforts to find victims and take them to safety, when seconds can mean the difference in survival.

1.3M Annual calls to U.S. fire departments²



The tech

Qwake Technologies is developing smart helmets for firefighters. These helmets, using C-THRU displays, infrared imaging and augmented-reality technology, generate 3D maps of buildings and identify objects and people.³ Helmets in testing now use 4G technology to connect data from the scene to a command center. 5G could make that data connection and processing even faster.

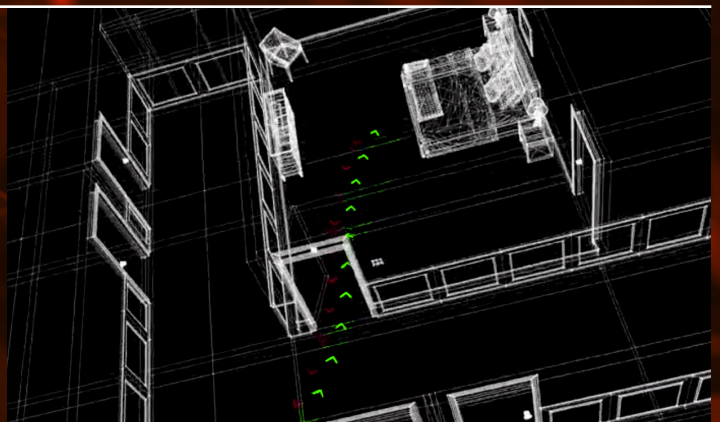
3-4 min Time to escape a modern home on fire⁴



The takeaway

Traditional methods of locating people at risk in a fire are haphazard and limited by smoke, debris, and low-light conditions. By leveraging 5G to connect data from a fire scene to a command center, Qwake hopes to develop a tool that will someday help firefighters move faster, communicate more effectively, and plan smarter strategies as they race against the clock to save lives.

3,600 Annual deaths caused by fire in the U.S.²



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¹ "Smoke Inhalation," homesafety.honeywell.com, Honeywell International, 2020 ² "Fire Loss in the United States During 2018," National Fire Protection Association, October 2019 ³ Qwake Technologies, quake.tech, 2020 ⁴ "Newer homes and furniture burn faster, giving you less time to escape a fire," *Today*, January 14, 2016