

[ARTICLE FROM CHINA'S XINHUA NEWS AGENCY]

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### **U.S. Scientists Develop a High-Tech Fire-Hazard Monitoring Network**

When a fire happens, the fire and smoke block the fireman's view and make it hard to know the overall fire hazard situation, slowing down and reducing the efficiency of fire rescue work. U.S. scientists have developed a high-tech monitoring network for fire hazards that can help firemen understand the level of the hazard so they can perform their rescue work more efficiently.

The California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology created this fire hazard monitoring network. It combines a Google map with 18 remotely controlled cameras set up at different locations. It collects all video images and data about fires promptly, providing firemen real-time information to improve decision-making.

Ramesh Rao, who is the leader for creating this monitoring system, said that this monitoring system has been deployed and used for the first time during October's firestorms in San Diego County. The system helped firemen get the real-time video information quickly when fire started spreading to residential areas. It also helped them to make the best and correct decisions for rescue work and to prevent fire from spreading—saving precious time for controlling the fire and evacuation work. The commander of California's emergency center, Tom Gardner, said: "When firemen and residents waiting for rescue are caught in a difficult situation, this fire hazard monitoring network will tell them where to go and what to do."

*[Translation by Qian Liu, Calit2]*

*[Original Chinese-language version from Xinhua News Agency is below]*

### **美科学家开发出高科技火情监测网**

新华社洛杉矶 12 月 5 日电 (记者高原) 当火灾发生时, 熊熊大火往往遮住消防队员的视线, 使他们无法判断火情, 从而影响灭火速度。美国科学家新开发出一种高科技火情监测网, 消防队员可利用它观测火情并更有效灭火。

据此间媒体 5 日报道, 美国加利福尼亚电信和信息学院等机构在加州圣迭戈县建立了这套火情监测网, 它通过综合应用谷歌卫星地图和分布在圣迭戈县各地的 18 台遥控摄像机, 可以快速进行火灾数据收集和处理, 提供相关影像, 从而帮助消防队员判断火情。

领导建设这一火情监测网的拉梅什·拉奥说, 该监测网在今年 10 月圣迭戈县发生大火时首次投入使用。当时大火快速扑向住宅区, 消防队员通过监测网很快掌握了火情, 判断出火源的确切地点, 为实施灭火和疏散民众赢得

了宝贵时间。

加州紧急指挥中心负责人汤姆·加德纳说：“当我们（消防队员）和等待救援的人们陷入困境时，火情监测网能准确告诉我们该往何处走。”（完）