

## For Law Enforcement

### FAA Statement:

#### Federal vs. Local Drone Authority

Friday, July 20, 2018

Congress has provided the FAA with exclusive authority to regulate aviation safety, the efficiency of the navigable airspace, and air traffic control, among other things.

**State and local governments are not permitted to regulate any type of aircraft operations, such as flight paths or altitudes, or the navigable airspace.**

However, these powers are not the same as regulation of aircraft landing sites, which involves local control of land and zoning. Laws traditionally related to state and local police power – including land use, zoning, privacy, and law enforcement operations – generally are not subject to federal regulation.

**Cities and municipalities are not permitted to have their own rules or regulations governing the operation of aircraft.**

However, as indicated, they may generally determine the location of aircraft landing sites through their land use powers.

## For Law Enforcement (cont'd)



Federal Aviation Administration

### DRONE Law Enforcement Response

**Detect** all available elements of the situation; attempt to locate and identify individuals operating the drone. (Look at windows/balconies/roof tops).

**Report incident** to the FAA Regional Operations Center (ROC). Follow-up assistance can be obtained through FAA Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) special agents.

**Observe** the UAS and maintain visibility of the device; look for damage or injured individuals. Note: Battery life is typically 20 to 30 minutes.

**Notice features:** Identify the type of device (fixed-wing/multi-rotor), its size, shape, color, payload (i.e., video equipment), and activity of device.

**Execute appropriate police action:** Maintain a safe environment for general public and first responders. Conduct a field interview and document ALL details of the event per the guidance provided by the FAA. [faa.gov/uas/resources/law\\_enforcement/](http://faa.gov/uas/resources/law_enforcement/)

*Always follow agency policies: Take appropriate action based on the facts and circumstances of the incident and site/area specific laws and rules. The FAA's enforcement action does NOT impact ANY enforcement action(s) taken by law enforcement.*

*Local ordinances that may apply include, but are not limited to: Reckless endangerment, criminal mischief, voyeurism, inciting violence.*



Federal Aviation Administration

### FAA Drone Incident Reporting

**Document and provide the following information to FAA:**

- Identity of operators and witnesses (name, contact information)
- Type of operation (hobby, commercial, public/governmental)
- Type of device(s) and registration information (number/certificate)
- Event location and incident details (date, time, place)
- Evidence collection (photos, video, device confiscation)

**Contact your FAA LEAP agent or an FAA ROC for assistance:**

<b>Western ROC</b>	AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY	206-231-2089	9-WSA-OPSCTR@faa.gov
<b>Central ROC</b>	AR, IA, IL, IN, KS, LA, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, NM, OH, OK, SD, TX, WI	817-222-5006	9-CSA-ROC@faa.gov
<b>East ROC</b>	AL, CT, FL, GA, KY, MA, ME, MS, NC, NH, PR, RI, SC, TN, VI, VT	404-305-5180	9-ESA-ROC@faa.gov
	DC, DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA, VA, WV	404-305-5150	9-ESA-ROC@faa.gov

# What are you doing with that drone?

## Questions and answers about this small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) drone

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## Thanks for your interest in this sUAS operation.

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If you've just been handed this brochure, the recreational pilot is busy completing a flight, and for safety reasons, should not be disturbed. Most answers to common questions can be found below, and you may ask additional questions once the recreational aircraft is safely on the ground.

Please be assured that this recreational pilot:

- Possesses a current **TRUST** certificate
- Is operating a properly FAA registered unmanned aircraft
- Follows ALL Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations
- Has received all necessary permissions, waivers, and clearances to fly at this location

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## For everyone's safety...

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Please keep a safe distance from the recreational pilot, crew, equipment, and operational areas including landing site.

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## What are you doing?

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There are many objectives recreational pilots perform, including but not limited to:

- Aerial photography
- Aerial videography
- Private Land Management
- Roof inspection

A recreational pilot may also fly for training, equipment testing & calibration, and other non-job specific purposes.

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## Do you need permission to fly from/over property?

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Recreational pilots may legally operate an unmanned aircraft (including takeoff and landing) FROM public property and private property (with permission).

Registered aircraft may be flown OVER both public and private property without owner or controlling authority permission as long as the recreational pilot adheres to all FAA regulations, and in the case of controlled and restricted airspace, with permission from the controlling authority (FAA).

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## Where can I learn more about UAS (drones) laws?

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If you'd like to learn more about the laws governing sUAS (including drones) or are interested in becoming a recreational or commercial remote pilot yourself, this FAA landing page is a great place to start:

<https://www.faa.gov/uas/>

Or, if you prefer, you can jump right to the federal regulations:

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-14/chapter-I/subchapter-F/part-107>

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**Please be aware that it is a violation of federal law to interfere with lawful aircraft operations. These laws include but are not limited to:**

- **49 U.S. Code § 46504 - Interference with flight crew members and attendants**
- **18 U.S. Code § 32 - Destruction of aircraft or aircraft facilities**