
Recreational or “Hobbyist” Use of a UAS:

The recreational use of a UAS is the operation of an unmanned aircraft for personal interests and enjoyment and may not be used for any type of commercial activity.

Must follow community-based safety guidelines, as developed by organizations such as the Academy of Model Aeronautics, which include but are not limited to:

- You must have a registration number from the FAA (effective Feb 19, 2016) for your UAS
- Fly no higher than 400 feet and remain below any surrounding obstacles.
- Keep your UAS within eyesight at all times.
- Do not intentionally fly within 25 feet of unprotected persons, buildings or moving vehicles, and vulnerable property.
- Do not fly within five miles of an airport or two miles of a helicopter landing zone.
- Do not fly at night or in adverse weather conditions such as in high winds or reduced visibility.
- Do not fly under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Ensure the operating environment is safe and that the operator is competent and proficient in the operation of the UAS.
- Do not fly near or over sensitive infrastructure or property such as power stations, police stations, water treatment facilities, correctional facilities, heavily traveled roadways, government facilities, etc.
- Do not fly over private property without the owner’s permission.
- Do not conduct surveillance or photograph persons in areas where there is an expectation of privacy without the individual’s permission.
- Remain well clear of and do not interfere with manned aircraft operations, and you must see and avoid other UAS, aircraft and obstacles at all times.

Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR).

Model aircraft operators must comply with any Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR). TFRs are issued over specific locations due to disasters, or for reasons of national security; or when determined necessary for the management of air traffic in the vicinity of aerial demonstrations or major sporting events. Do not operate model aircraft in designated areas until the TFR is no longer in force.

Model aircraft must not operate in Prohibited Areas, Special Flight Rule Areas or, the Washington National Capital Region Flight Restricted Zone, without specific authorization.

400 Foot Limitation

Model aircraft operators should follow best practices including limiting operations to 400 feet above ground level (AGL).

Registration

Drones weighing more than 250 grams (0.55 lbs.) pounds must be registered. Most "toys" the FAA has identified at a purchase price of \$100 or less have been determined to weigh less than 250g.

Effective December 21, 2015, anyone who owns a small unmanned aircraft of a certain weight must register with the Federal Aviation Administration's Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) registry before they fly outdoors. People who previously operated their UAS must register by February 19, 2016. People who do not register could face civil and criminal penalties.

Recreational or Hobby Guidance for Model Aircraft

Model aircraft are unmanned aircraft that are capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere, flown within visual line of sight of the person operating the aircraft, and flown only for hobby or recreational purposes.

Determination of “Model Aircraft” Status. Whether a given unmanned aircraft operation may be considered a “model aircraft operation”:

- (1) The aircraft is flown strictly for hobby or recreational use;
- (2) The aircraft operates in accordance with a community-based set of safety guidelines and within the programming of a nationwide community-based organization (CBO);
- (3) The aircraft is limited to not more than 55 pounds, unless otherwise certified through a design, construction, inspection, flight test, and operational safety program administered by a CBO;
- (4) The aircraft operates in a manner that does not interfere with, and gives way to, any manned aircraft; and
- (5) When flown within 5 miles of an airport, the operator of the model aircraft provides the airport operator or the airport air traffic control tower (when an air traffic facility is located at the airport) with prior notice of the operation.

From AC No. 91-57A

Contact Police If:

- A drone is flying near crowds of people, wildlife, over traffic, near manned aircraft or an airport.
- A drone is over 55 pounds and over 400 feet Above Ground Level (AGL).
- Drone is Unregistered and over 1/2 pound.
- Within 25 feet of a building or person not involved in the operation.
- Drone is flying at night

Do Not Contact Police If:

- The drone is a registered commercial operator
- There is a film permit in place and the drone is under 400 feet AGL and over 500 feet away from people and property not involved in filming
- Drone is flying over private property
- Drone is over 25 feet away from people

FAA Contacts

If Operator is endangering the public:

- i. FAA Flight Standards District Office-
(801) 257-5020

https://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/field_offices/fsdo/slc/contact/

- ii. FAA Law Enforcement Assistance Special Agent-
(202) 267-4641

- iii. FAA Law Enforcement Assistance Program
Office-(202) 267-9411

Notes: