

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY



Understanding Your Authority with Drones

Law enforcement and other public safety agencies have an important role in protecting the public from unsafe and unauthorized drone operations. As a law enforcement officer, you are often in the best position to deter, detect and investigate unsafe or unauthorized drone operations.

UNSAFE AND/OR UNAUTHORIZED DRONE

The FAA's Law Enforcement Checklist helps you identify the necessary steps you need to take to respond to a situation involving an unsafe or unauthorized drone.

- **Detect** all available elements of the situation; attempt to locate and identify individuals operating the drone. (Look at windows/balconies/rooftops).
- **Report** the incident to the FAA Regional Operations Center (ROC). Follow-up assistance can be obtained through FAA Law Enforcement Assistance Program special agents.
- **Observe** the drone 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 field interviews; request proof of drone registration; document ALL details of the event per the guidance provided by the FAA.

Learn more at faa.gov/go/DronePublicSafety

Always follow your agency policies: Take appropriate action based on the facts and circumstances of the incident and site/area-specific laws and rules. Any action taken by the FAA should not preclude law enforcement from taking action to enforce state and local laws regarding drone operations. Local laws or ordinances that may apply include, but are not limited to: reckless endangerment, criminal mischief, voyeurism, interference with law enforcement and trespassing.

Document and provide the following information to the FAA:

- Identity of operators and witnesses (name, contact information)
- Nature of the operation (for fun, to support a business, governmental)
- Type of device(s) and registration information (number/certificate)
- Event location and incident details (date, time, place)
- Evidence collection (photos, video, registration information, device confiscation)

CONSIDERATIONS FOR DISRUPTING DRONE OPERATIONS

State and local law enforcement entities, private-sector stakeholders, and even individuals may be interested in methods for disrupting the operation of drones believed to pose a hazard to privacy, safety or security. However, the FAA cautions all non-federal entities against pursuing the testing, evaluation or use of technologies to detect and/or mitigate drone activity, whether involving kinetic or non-kinetic capabilities, without consulting legal counsel for a thorough evaluation of the legal risks.

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CONTACT YOUR FAA LEAP AGENT OR FAA ROC FOR ASSISTANCE

Special agents from the FAA's **Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP)** are your point of contact for federal, state, local, tribal, territorial and international law enforcement agencies. LEAP special agents can provide information on drone enforcement and registration matters. Providing a LEAP special agent with reports of suspected unauthorized UAS incidents in a timely manner increases the FAA's ability to take enforcement action when appropriate. (NOTE: You may contact any LEAP agent if your assigned agent is not available.) **Washington Headquarters Program Office and D.C. drone incidents:** 202-267-4641 LEAP@faa.gov.

WEST

LEAP Branch Manager
206-231-2093

- WA, ID, OR, MT and WY
special agent: 425-495-1972
- Northern CA
special agent: 916-956-8830
- Southern CA, NV, CO and GU
special agent: 310-363-9435
- AZ, UT and HI
special agent: 602-721-6091
- Alaska
special agent: 907-201-0245

CENTRAL

LEAP Branch Manager
405-954-8569

- IL, IN, MI, MN, OH and WI
special agent: 847-294-7521
- IA, KS, MO, NE, ND and SD
special agent: 816-329-3717
- OK, AR and LA
special agent: 817-222-5742
- TX and NM
special agent: 817-222-5713

EAST

LEAP Branch Manager
404-305-6816

- CT, ME, MA, NH, RI and VT
special agent: 781-238-7704
- DE, MD, NJ, NY and PA
special agent: 781-238-7073
- AL, MS, TN, KY and NC
special agent: 404-305-6759
- GA, SC, VA and WV
special agent: 404-305-6807
- North and Central FL
special agent: 404-430-1365
- South FL, PR and VI
special agent: 786-778-5923
786-409-8576

Regional Operations Centers (ROCs) are staffed 24/7 and should be contacted if you observe a drone that may potentially interfere with the safety or security of the National Airspace System. The ROC will ensure notification is made to manned air traffic in the vicinity as well as appropriate FAA offices.

Western: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT,
WA, WY
206-231-2089 / 9-wsa-opsctr@faa.gov

Washington DC/National
202-267-3333 / 9-awa-ash-woc@faa.gov

Central: 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

Eastern: DC, DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA, WV, VA
404-305-5150 / 9-ESA-ROC@faa.gov

AL, CT, FL, GA, KY, MA, ME, MS, NC, NH, PR,
RI, SC, TN, VI, VT
404-305-5180 / 9-ESA-ROC@faa.gov