



DRONES

COMMANDER FRANK ACOSTA
BRIGHTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHAT THE CITY OF BRIGHTON NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT DRONES!!

- What are Drones?
 - An “Unmanned Aircraft” - an aircraft that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft. This definition includes devices commonly referred to as drones, remote controlled aircraft, and model aircraft.



WHAT THE CITY OF BRIGHTON NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT DRONES!!

- The City Council of Brighton may adopt reasonable restrictions on the time, places, and manner in which a person may land, launch, or otherwise operate an Unmanned Aircraft so as not to interfere with the health, safety, and welfare of City residents.
- To ensure the restrictions are easily accessible by Unmanned Aircraft operators, such restrictions should be published on the City's website and through other internet accessible systems.
- More information can be found on the internet at National League of Cities at <http://www.nlc.org/>. "Cities and Drones"

ITEMS TO THINK ABOUT!!

- **FAA Rules**

- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires all Unmanned Aircraft to weigh less than 55 lbs.
- Maximum altitude of 400 feet
- Keep aircraft in sight at all times
- No flight over groups of people, stadiums, or sporting events
- 13 years of age or older
- Must be registered if over .55 lbs
- Daylight only operations
- 3 types of users
 - Recreational, Commercial, Public Government

ITEMS TO THINK ABOUT!!

- The FAA does not currently enforce any regulations that are specific to recreational drones, but has partnered with local governments to enforce and promote guidelines for the safe operation of recreational drones.
- **Registration**
 - Beginning December 21, 2015, the FAA implemented a new rule requiring all small drones weighing between .55 lbs and 55 lbs. (including attached equipment) to be registered with the FAA.
 - Online Process starting March 1, 2016. Registration can be done through the FAA website. Registration costs \$5 dollars and is valid for 3 years
 - Under this new law, all recreational drone operators should be carrying their registration certificate and are required to show their registration upon request to local law enforcement. However, there is no separate enforcement mechanism if a citizen refuses to show their registration.

ITEMS TO THINK ABOUT!!

- **Law Enforcement Considerations**

- Although there is no local enforcement of federal FAA rules, officers should consider the conduct and determine if the incident involves a violation of existing state and local laws:
 - Criminal Trespass
 - Invasion of Privacy for Sexual Gratification
 - Criminal invasion of privacy
 - Reckless Endangerment
 - Obstruction (flying over crime scenes, interference with operations)
 - Criminal Mischief



ITEMS TO THINK ABOUT!!

- **City Council Considerations**

- Ordinance development
- Fine Schedule
- Areas of exemption such as Hospitals, Fire Stations, Police Department, City Hall
- Designated Drone recreation area or park
- Law Enforcement involvement

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Q: I have a drone and would like to use it to monitor my business, such as by checking my roof. I won't sell any pictures. Is this commercial use?**
- **A:** Yes. The FAA views any UAS (drone) operation that supports the functions of your business as a non-recreational use.
- **Do I have to register every aircraft I own?**
- **A:** No. Recreational operators only need to register once. Once you receive a FAA registration number you can put that same number on all of the aircraft you own that meet the weight requirement.
- **Q: May I hire someone else to operate a UAS to take aerial images of my real estate listings?**
- **A:** Yes. You may hire an individual or company to operate a UAS on your behalf. However, before doing so, be sure to verify that the individual or company has successfully obtained a Section 333 waiver from the FAA.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Q: I am part of a Federal/State/local government office – how can I fly a UAS to support a specific mission e.g. search and rescue?**
- **A:** You may either operate under the [Part 107 rule](#), or you may be eligible to conduct public aircraft operations for which you would need to apply for a public [Certificate of Waiver or Authorization \(COA\)](#) for certain operations.
- **Q: Can news media fly a UAS to shoot stories or cover breaking news?**
- **A:** Media companies may use a UAS, but must adhere to the requirements of their Section 333 grant of exemption or the Small UAS Rule (Part 107). Organizations may request a waiver under Part 107 to fly over people, and will need to provide sufficient mitigations to ensure public safety.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Q: What is the definition of recreational or hobby use of a UAS?**
- **A:** Recreational or hobby UAS use is flying for enjoyment and not for work, business purposes, or for compensation or hire.
- **Q: How do I know where it is OK to fly and where it is not OK to fly?**
- **A:** City of Brighton website, Brighton Police Department website, FAA.
- **Q: Why do I need to register my UAS?**
- **A:** Federal law requires that all aircraft (which includes UAS and radio/remote controlled aircraft) flown outdoors must be registered with the FAA and marked with a registration number.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Q: If I'm just flying my UAS inside a building, or in my own yard, do I have to register it?**
- **A:** If you're flying indoors, you do not need to register your unmanned aircraft as the FAA does not regulate indoor UAS use. However, when flying in your own yard or over your own property, you will need to register your UAS if the UAS weighs more than 0.55 pounds.
- **Q: If my UAS is destroyed or is sold, lost, or transferred, do I need to do anything?**
- **A:** You should cancel your registration through the FAA's online website.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Q: If someone's UAS crashes in my yard, hurts someone, or damages my property, what do I do?**
- **A:** Call local law enforcement. Law enforcement personnel will contact the FAA if the crash investigation requires FAA participation.
- **Q: What should I do if I see someone flying a drone in a reckless or irresponsible manner?**
- **A:** Flying a drone in a reckless manner is a violation of Federal law and FAA regulations and could result in civil fines or criminal action. If you see something that could endanger other aircraft or people on the ground, call local law enforcement.