



# 2017 USA sUAS Handbook

Rules & Regulations

*A Brief Guide to Current Regulations and Guidelines*



# UAS Overview

An unmanned aircraft system (UAS) is an unmanned aircraft\* (UA), commonly referred to as a “drone,” with the associated support equipment, control station, data links, telemetry, communications, and navigation equipment necessary to operate. Currently, the federal and some state governments have established regulations for UAS operations focusing on the following areas:

**Federal Guidance - Safety Regulations**

**State Guidance - Appropriate Use Regulations**

While both entities have major roles in providing guidance and regulation for UAS operations and management, other users, such as airports, law enforcement, and pilots are also important. UAS operators have important responsibilities in the safe and appropriate operation of UAS within the National Airspace System (NAS).



The following sections provide an overview of the various regulations and responsibilities as they relate to each UAS operations entity.

\*A UA is considered an aircraft under both 49 U.S.C. § 40102 and 14 C.F.R. § 1.1.

## Registered?

Visit [DRONE-REGISTRATION.net](https://www.drone-registration.net) today!



# Do you want to fly UAS?

Operations fall into different categories.  
What type of pilot are you?

Depending on use, your requirements may be different.

## Public (Governmental)

### Public Entity Examples

Federal, State, Local Agencies  
Law Enforcement  
Public Universities & Colleges

### Public Operation Examples

Intelligence Mission  
Firefighting  
Search & Rescue  
Law Enforcement  
Aeronautical Research  
Geological Research  
Resource Mapping

### Apply for Certificate of Authorization (COA)

Unless explicitly stated with your COA, adhere to the Federal UAS Operator Guidelines on Pg. 3

For more information on obtaining a COA, visit:  
[faa.gov/uas/public\\_operations](http://faa.gov/uas/public_operations)

## Model Aircraft (Hobby or Recreation Only)

### Model Aircraft Examples

The aircraft is flown strictly for hobby or recreational use. The operator must not be operating for profit in any capacity.

### Model Aircraft Operations Examples

Photography (Personal)  
Recreational Flying  
Assess Personal Property

### Adhere to Federal UAS Operator Guidelines on Pg. 3

### Know Before You Fly

UAS operators are encouraged to be familiar with the Know Before You Fly Campaign which provides users with the information and guidance they need to fly safely and responsibly.

Note \*  
Need airline transport, commercial, private, recreational, or sport pilot certificate to fly aircraft with 333 exemption.  
Additional requirements needed for aerial photography for motion picture and TV industries for scripted closed set filming.

## Civil (Non-Governmental)

### Civil Entity Examples

Educational Institutions  
Fly for Hire Groups  
Industry, etc.

### Civil Operations Examples

Photography (For Business)  
Real-Estate Evaluation  
Surveying

### Apply for Section 333 Exemption\*

OR

### Apply for Special Airworthiness Certificate (SAC) in Experimental or Restricted Category

Unless explicitly stated in your Section 333 Exemption or SAC, adhere to the Federal UAS Operator Guidelines on Pg. 3

OR

### Obtain Part 107 Remote Pilot Airman Certificate.

For more information on obtaining a Section 333 Exemption, SAC or 107, visit:  
[faa.gov/uas/civil\\_operations](http://faa.gov/uas/civil_operations)  
and [Drone-Registration.net](http://Drone-Registration.net)

# Federal sUAS

## Laws & Guidance

All UAS over 0.55 LBS must be registered with the FAA and properly labeled before flight.

The following federal laws and guidelines are provided for operators of UAS:



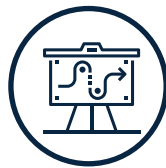
Operate UAS within visual sight at all times



Do not fly under the influence of alcohol or drugs



Contact the airport or air traffic control tower if within 5 miles of an airport



Must remain clear, and yield to all manned aircraft operations



Operate UAS no higher than 400 feet and remain below surrounding obstacles



Do not fly near or over sensitive infrastructures (e.g., power stations, correctional facilities)



Do not fly in adverse weather conditions such as high winds or reduced visibility



Do not fly a UAS if it has not been registered with the FAA and properly labeled



Never fly near emergency response efforts



Do not fly over people



Never Fly over stadiums or sporting events



Do not fly in national parks

# In addition to FAA Regulations

Individual States may also regulate UAS.

The overwhelming majority of state drone laws fall into three categories:

**Protecting the privacy of individuals**

**Prohibiting drone use for hunting**

**Limiting drone use by law enforcement.**

Other laws create drone commissions, restrict the use of drones in certain industries, or address common sense misuse such as flying over prisons or fireworks displays – often in laws redundant to existing federal guidelines.

## Arizona

SB 1449

## Arkansas

Act 1019

Act 293

## California

AB 1680

Civil Code Section 1708.8

## Delaware

HB 195

## Florida

Criminal Code Section 934.50

## Illinois

20 ILCS 5065

## Indiana

HB 1013

HB 1246

## Idaho

SB 1213

## Louisiana

La. Revised Statutes, Section 3:41, et seq.

HB 19

HB 335

HB 635

SB 141

## Maine

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA Pt. 12

## Maryland

Section 14-301

## Michigan

Mich. Compiled Laws Section 324.40112

Mich. Compiled Laws Section 324.40111c

SB 992

## Mississippi

Miss. Code Section 97-29-61

## Nevada

Amendments 362, 640, and 746

## New Hampshire

RSA 207:57

## North Carolina

Section 7.16(e) of S.L. 2013-360

## North Dakota

North Dakota Code Sec. 29-29.4-01

## Oklahoma

HB 2599

## Oregon

Oregon HB 4066

SB 5702

State Fish and Wildlife Commission

## Tennessee

Tenn. Code Section 39-13-903(a)

## Texas

Gov. Code Section 423.002(a)

Gov. Code Section 423.0045

Gov. Code Section 411.062

## Utah

HB 126

HB 3003

## Virginia

Executive Order No. 43

## Vermont

SB 155

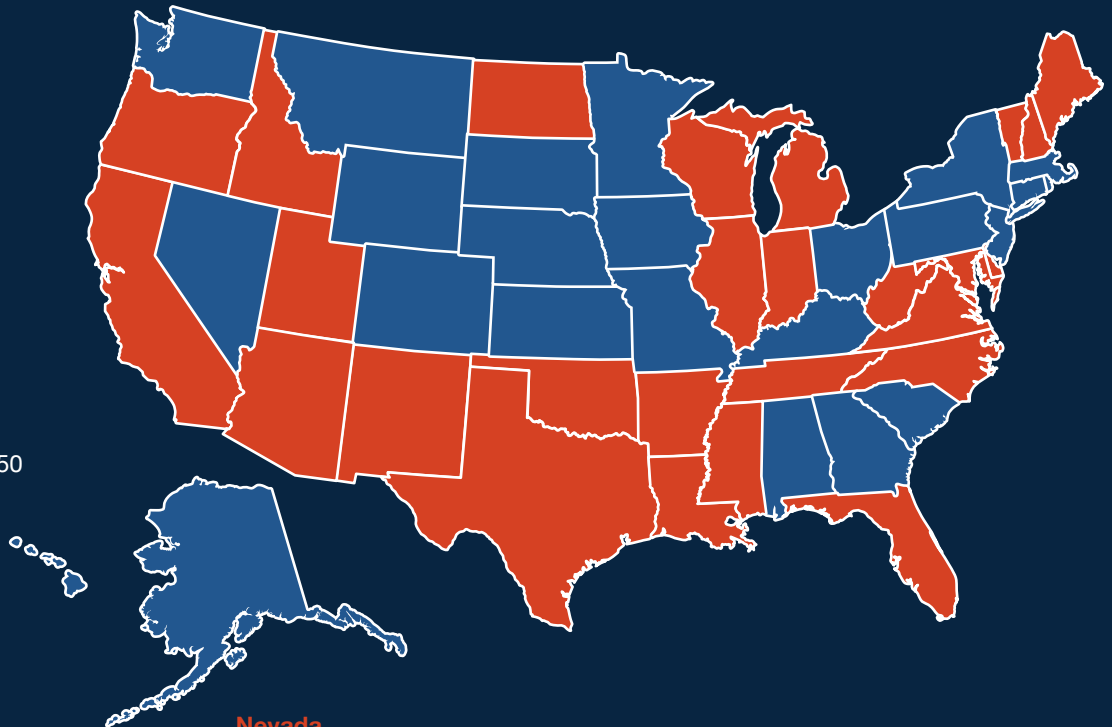
## West Virginia

West Va. Code Section 20-2-5

## Wisconsin

SB 338

AB 670



# Roles & Responsibilities



## PILOT

Pilots are in charge of operating aircraft in a safe manner and are ultimately responsible for the route and operation of aircraft in the sky and on the ground. Pilots should understand the rules and regulations of UAS and report any improper use of operation.



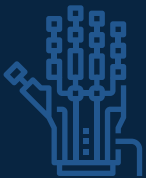
## COMMUNITY

The community should understand the rules and regulations regarding airports and aircraft. Knowing the roles and responsibilities of those involved in aviation (the FAA, the airports, airlines, pilots, etc.) and how to contact them if needed will help ensure their safety and effective regulation. Community members should know the locations of airports in their area or contact the local FAA office for more information.



## AIRPORT

An airport is responsible for ensuring the safety of airport facilities and for managing airport lands, buildings, and infrastructure. Airports should understand the rules and regulations related to UAS operations at and in the vicinity of their airport and coordinate with the FAA to ensure the safety of airport operations. Airports should notify local law enforcement and the FAA in the event of an unauthorized UAS operation in close proximity to the airport.



## LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement is responsible for enforcing the laws and regulations as they relate to UAS operations. If a UAS operator is suspected of breaking FAA regulations, local Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) are encouraged to conduct interviews, document the scene, collect any evidence, and notify the appropriate FAA Regional Operation Center. In addition to federal regulations, LEAs should be familiar with state and local regulations that may pertain to UAS operation within their jurisdiction.

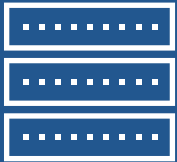
# How to Label Your sUAS



## Find your registration number

In the FAA confirmation email or Account page.

Registration Number: FA-000-001



## Mark all aircraft

with your registration number before flight.

You can use:

- PERMANENT LABEL
- ENGRAVING



## Number must be visible

(You may mark inside the battery compartment if it does not require a tool to open.)

# UAS Near Wildfires

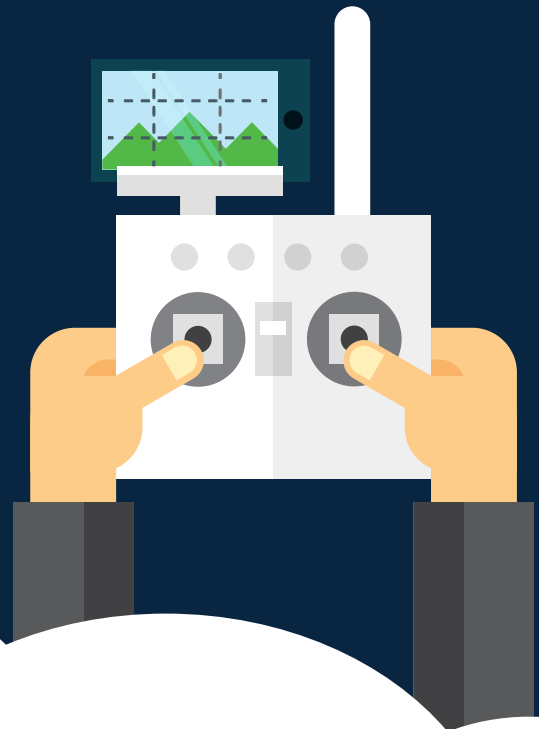
## ARE NOT SAFE

### If YOU Fly, WE Can't

Flying Drones or UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) within or near wildfires without permission could cause injury or death to firefighters and inhibit their ability to protect lives, property, and natural resources.



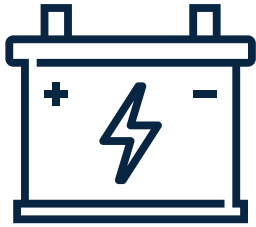
Fire managers may suspend aerial firefighting until unauthorized UAS leave the Area, allowing wildfires to grow larger.



### Contact

your nearest land management agency office to learn more about UAS and public lands.





# Traveling Safely

## With Your LIPO

For more information please contact airlines

- **CARRY ON ONLY**
- **< 100WH, No Limit on Number**  
**100-300WH, Limit 2**

To determine watt hours (Wh), multiply the volts (V) by the milliamp hours (mAh) then divide by 1000. Example: A 12-volt battery rated to 8000 mAh is rated at 96 watt hours ( $12 \times 8000 / 1000 = 96$ )

- **MUST BE SHORT CIRCUIT PROTECTED**
- **MUST BE SAFELY PACKAGED**
- **MUST BE PROPERLY LABELED**



## B4UFLY

### Smartphone App

Use the B4UFLY app to determine if there are any restrictions or any requirements in effect at the location where you want to fly.

[www.faa.gov/UAS/B4UFLY](http://www.faa.gov/UAS/B4UFLY)

For more information about Unmanned Aerial Systems please visit:

**DRONE-REGISTRATION.NET**

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