

Drone Policy

Purpose

By their nature, low-frequency, high-risk incidents require every available means of gathering information to increase firefighter safety and increase situational awareness. Emergencies where the complexity or scope of the incident require critical decision making on the part of the incident commander and or pose a significant risk to firefighter safety could require the use of a Department UAS.

Those calls would include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Hazardous materials incidents
- (b) Confined space rescues
- (c) High/ low angle rescues
- (d) Swift or moving water rescues or
- (e) ...and any other expanded or extended incident.

A process for requesting a UAS follows in this document.

Objectives

1. To clearly define the conditions and parameters under which the Department will operate and deploy a UAS within the City limits and mutual aid communities as a supplement to pre-planning, training, incident assessment, and incident command operations.
2. The primary role of the UAS is insertion into emergent or ongoing events that pose a risk to public safety or threats to the City's infrastructure by providing "real time" hazard assessment utilizing High Resolution (zoom capable) cameras, Infrared/Thermal Sensors.

As stated, these deployments will not be part of the typical Department response. Information garnered from a Department UAS will be used for informational and/or training purposes.

The Department's UAS will not be used to monitor members of the public or provide surveillance for law enforcement purposes. Its intended use is to provide greater situational awareness to incident commanders thereby enhancing firefighter safety in response to and mitigation of emergent situations and incident types unrelated to citizen monitoring or surveillance.

Drone Use

The UAS will only be used at the Incident Commander's request and will in no way interfere with life saving duties.

1. The Department UAS will only be operated by trained, certified and (FAA part 107 or higher) licensed members (operators and observer) of the Department.
2. The UAS will be used for Department- related purposes only. The Department might, as part of Utah regional partnerships, Mutual Aid or Automatic Aid agreements, operate the UAS outside of "city" boundaries when dispatched to assist another regional Fire Department.
3. The UAS will NOT be lent to any other department or agency. However, if dispatched or properly requested, the UAS, operated by an Department UAS team member(s), can be utilized in accordance with the provisions of the COA and the Department UAS Policy.

4. For Department UAS flights during live incidents, the “pilot in charge” SHALL ensure or request the UAS be added to the existing Incident. In all cases, incident information SHALL include: launch time, exact location, pilot in charge, mission type and UAS ID.
5. The UAS will not be used for any police operations requiring a warrant.
6. The UAS will not interfere with any life saving operations on the fire scene.

All video and photos will be transferred and stored to the common drive.

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