

Drone incidents

It is the responsibility of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to enforce, investigate and address UAS/Drone usage that violates FAA Regulations. If it is believed that a drone operator is violating FAA Regulations, please promptly record and report the incident to the FAA at UAShelp@faa.gov or call 844-FLY-MY-UA.

Drones weighing between 0.55 lbs. (250 grams) and up to 55 lbs. (25 kg) must be registered with the FAA¹. Drone operators can be located and identified by the “N-number” unique to each registered drone.

Below is a summary of current FAA regulations regarding UAS/Drone usage:

The rules for operating an unmanned aircraft		
	Fly for Fun	Fly for Work
Pilot Requirements	No pilot requirements	Must have Remote Pilot Airman Certificate. Must be 16 years old. Must pass TSA vetting.
Aircraft Requirements	Unless exclusively operated in compliance with Section 336 of Public Law 112-95 (<i>Special Rule for Model Aircraft</i>), the aircraft must be registered if over 0.55 lbs.	Must be less than 55 lbs. Must be registered if over 0.55 lbs. (online). Must undergo pre-flight check to ensure UAS is in condition.

¹There is a special exception for model airplanes which are flown within visual line of sight of the person operating the aircraft and flown for hobby or recreational purposes only. Chapter 8.24 of the Municipal Code governs model airplanes.

The rules for operating an craft		
	Fly for Fun	Fly for Work
		for safe operation
Location Requirements	5 miles from airports without prior notification to airport and air traffic control.	Class G airspace.*
Operating Rules	<p>Must ALWAYS yield right of way to manned aircraft Must keep the aircraft in sight (visual line-of-sight) UAS must be under 55 lbs.</p> <p>Must follow community-based safety guidelines Must notify airport and air traffic control tower before flying within 5 miles of an airport.</p>	<p>Must keep the aircraft in sight (visual line-of-sight).*</p> <p>Must fly under 400 feet.*</p> <p>Must fly during the day.*</p> <p>Must fly at or below 100 mph.*</p> <p>Must yield right of way to manned aircraft.*</p> <p>Must NOT fly over people.*</p> <p>Must NOT fly from a moving vehicle.*</p>
Example Applications	Educational or recreational flying only.	<p>Flying for commercial use (e.g. providing aerial surveying or photography services)</p> <p>Flying incidental to a business (e.g. doing roof inspections or real estate photography).</p>
Legal or Regulatory Basis	<p>Public Law 112-95, Section 336 – <i>Special Rule for Model Aircraft</i></p> <p>FAA Interpretation of the Special Rule for Model Aircraft</p>	Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulation (14 CFR) Part 107.

*These rules are subject to waiver.

The Palos Verdes Estates Police Department will respond to reports of improper drone use. Often times, officers are able to contact the drone operator(s) to advise them of the complaint. Officers may also advise the operator that they are operating the drone in violation of FAA regulations, or that the operator may face a civil suit for the improper operation of the drone.

Officers will take action if the drone operator is violating the City's Municipal Code, or violating a penal code, such as the following:

- Delaying or interfering with police officer (PC 148(a)(1))
- Assault (PC 217.1(a); 240; 241.2(a); etc.)
- Battery (PC 242; 243)
- Criminal negligence
- Vandalism (PC 594)
- Voyeurism (PC 647(i) or (j))
- Trespass (PC 602(t))

The Palos Verdes Estates Police Department can be contacted at 310-378-4211. The FAA should also be contacted at UAShelp@faa.gov or call 844-FLY-MY-UA (359-6982).