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### Title: Drone Awareness UAS Education

An unmanned aircraft system (UAS), sometimes called a drone, is an aircraft without a human pilot onboard – instead, the UAS is controlled from an operator on the ground.

When you fly a drone in the United States, it is your responsibility to understand and abide by the rules.

If you’re one of the lucky people who received a drone as a holiday present, the [Federal Aviation Administration](https://www.faa.gov/uas/) wants you to know how to fly it safely. The agency has released a [new video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0dogXd89fs&feature=youtu.be) reminding everyone of the rules and regulations that safe drone pilots must follow.

Before you fly your drone outdoors, the first thing to do is register it at [www.faa.gov/uas](http://www.faa.gov/uas).  If you’re going to operate according to the model aircraft rules, you’ll receive one identification number to apply to all your drones. Non-modelers must register **each** of their drones individually.

The video above also tells you how to get the [FAA’s B4UFLY Google app](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.faa.b4ufly2&hl=en) or [iPhone app](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/b4ufly/id992427109?mt=8) that provides the latest information about airspace restrictions wherever you intend to fly your drone.

### UAS Safety is Everyone’s Responsibility

That means following the rules:

* Don’t fly over people and respect the privacy of anyone on the ground.
* Don’t fly near other aircraft or in restricted airspace, such as “No Drone Zones.”
* The [US Forest Service](http://www.fs.fed.us/science-technology/fire/unmanned-aircraft-systems) wants to remind drone pilots “[If you fly, We Can’t](http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/styles/fs_width_0848px/public/legacy_files/media/2015/25/Draft_UAS%20Fire%20Safety_web_sm.jpg).”
	+ Individuals and organizations that fly UAS on National Forest System lands must follow [FAA guidance](http://www.faa.gov/news/press_releases/news_story.cfm?newsId=16474). This stipulates that a UAS must not interfere with manned aircraft, must be flown within sight of the operator and operated only for hobby or recreational purposes.
		- Flying drones or UAS within or near wildfires without permission could cause injury or death to firefighters and hamper their ability to protect lives, property, and natural cultural resources.
		- Fire managers may suspend aerial firefighting until unauthorized UAS leave the area, which could allow a wildfire to grow larger.
	+ If you want to know more about this, contact your nearest Land Management Agency office to find out more about UAS and public lands or the [U.S. Forest Service Website](http://www.fs.fed.us/science-technology/fire/unmanned-aircraft-systems/responsible-use).

**The bottom line**: Safe flying is what smart drone pilots do.

### UAS in Emergency Incidents

UAS operations are particularly effective in emergency incidents for missions that are dangerous.

* Humans are not put at risk.
* Continuous operations are possible.
* Operations with UAS often cost less than using manned aircraft.

### Things an operator must know for flying under the small UAS rule (14 CFR part 107):

### Pilot Requirements:

### Must be at least 16 years old

### Must read, write, speak and understand English

### Pass a TSA security screening

### Pass knowledge exam at FAA-approved Knowledge Testing Center

* + Airman Certification Standards
	+ Study Guide
	+ Online Training Course at <https://www.faasafety.gov>

**Aircraft Requirements:**

* Less than 55 pounds
* [Must be registered](https://registermyuas.faa.gov/)

### Operating Rules:

### Must keep the aircraft in sight (visual line-of-sight)

### Altitude of 400-feet or less or a 400 foot radius

### Must fly during the day and only one UAS per pilot in command

### Must fly with groundspeed at or below 100 mph

### Must yield right of way to manned aircraft

### Must NOT fly over people

### Must NOT fly from a moving vehicle

### Information Source for this blog is from:

* [Federal Aviation Administration](https://www.faa.gov/uas/)
* U.S. [Forest](http://www.fs.fed.us/science-technology/fire/unmanned-aircraft-systems) Service

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