

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Operations

As of March of 2022, the Sunriver Police Department began using Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), commonly referred to as drones, to provide airborne support to police operations. These drones increase community and responder safety and de-escalate violent situations.

Per the Sunriver Police Department's policy 605.2: "A UAS may be utilized to enhance the department's mission of protecting lives and property when other means and resources are not available or less effective. Any use of a UAS will be in strict accordance with constitutional and privacy rights and Federal Aviation Administration regulations."

Per the Sunriver Rules and Regulation's section 5.05: "Except as permitted by the SROA General Manager, the takeoff/landing of unmanned aircraft, including but not limited to aerial drones, is prohibited in Sunriver. An exception applies when Sunriver Police and Fire Departments or other agencies having authorized jurisdiction are acting in an official capacity requiring the use of an unmanned aircraft/drone."

UAS Operators

Sunriver Police Department currently has one UAS operator and a program manager. All operators must pass their FAA Part 107 license, and department training. They will also abide by department policy and state and federal laws regarding the use of UAS. In addition, the operator currently attends monthly Tri-County UAS trainings in the Central Oregon area.

Permitted Use

The UAS shall only be operated under the following circumstances:

- When there is probable cause to believe that a person has committed a crime, is committing a crime, or is about to commit a crime, and exigency circumstances exist. (ORS: 837.320)
- When assisting an individual in an emergency if there is a reasonable belief that the individual is in situation that poses imminent threat to their life and safety. (ORS:837.335)
- With a warrant granted by a judge. (ORS: 837.320)
- If there is written consent from the property owner. (ORS: 837.330)
- When officers are training. (ORS: 837.345)

- For the purposes of reconstruction of a specific crime scene or accident scene.
(ORS 837.340)

Restricted Use

The Sunriver UAS shall not be used:

- To conduct random surveillance
- To target any specific person based on actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, or disability.
- To harass, intimidate or discriminate against any individual or group.
- To conduct personal business of any type.
- It shall not be used in any way that causes interference with an aircraft that is in the air, taking off or landing.

UAS Flight Information

Only authorized operators who have completed the required training shall be permitted to operate the UAS. Every flight is logged. Every year the flights are reported to the Oregon Department of Aviation.

Guidelines

The Sunriver Police Department stores evidentiary data obtained by a UAS pursuant to OAR 166-150-0135 at evidence.com.

ORS 192.345 - [ORS 192.345 – Public records conditionally exempt from disclosure](#))

Sunriver Police Policy 605.1