



*The Austin Fire Department's (AFD) Robotics Emergency Deployment (RED) Team congratulates you on the purchase of your drone! To help ensure you know the rules and stay out of the "no drone zone," we are providing this information as a public service. Operating a drone is a huge responsibility; knowing when to stay grounded ensures that public safety first responders can do their jobs in an emergency. For*

*more detailed information, please see the items noted below. And to learn more about AFD's RED Team, visit <http://austintexas.gov/page/rescue-robotics>.*

**Federal Aviation Administration (FAA):** <https://www.faa.gov/uas/>

FAA rules state that the smaller aircraft must yield airspace to the larger, less maneuverable aircraft. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) are easier to ground, can be virtually invisible to pilots in the air, and can disable and potentially cripple a manned aircraft if they get too close endangering all personnel on board. Immediately land your UAV when you see any manned aircraft in the vicinity.



**Know Before You Fly:** <http://knowbeforeyoufly.org/>

“Know Before You Fly” is an education campaign founded by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI), the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), and the Small UAV Coalition in partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to educate prospective users about safe and responsible operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).

**UAV Systems Association (UAVSA):** <http://www.uavsa.org/>

Founded in 2014 and based in Los Angeles, the UAVSA is the leading association formed for the primary purpose of serving the growing UAS/drone community. They can provide information on obtaining an exemption, whether or not your liability insurance protects you, fines that may be levied by the FAA, etc.

### **State of Texas Rules**

Thirteen (13) states including Texas have passed their own drone laws. To read House Bill 912 which outlines the specifics for the state of Texas, visit:

<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/83R/billtext/pdf/HB00912F.pdf#navpanes=0>

You can also read how Texas' law compares to other states' laws here:

<http://www.texasmonthly.com/daily-post/texass-drone-law-pretty-much-opposite-every-other-states-drone-law>

### **City of Austin**

Although the City of Austin typically bans the use of drones during large-scale events for safety reasons, the Austin Police Department (APD) will no longer ticket those flying drones unless the public is in immediate danger. Austin officials will revisit its drone ordinances once the FAA rules are finalized. Read the APD memo on the back of this flyer for more information.



***The Austin Fire Department accepts no responsibility for the operation of any drone owned by an individual and/or commercial business.***

***Fly at your own risk!***

# AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT



## TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

April 16, 2015

## ENFORCEMENT RELATED TO UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (DRONES)

This Training Announcement is to clarify the enforcement policy of the Austin Police Department relating to the operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), also known as “drones.”

The Austin City Code, Sec. 13-1-1, defines “aircraft” as a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air. A drone fits the definition of aircraft. However, the Federal Aviation Administration is currently proposing new rules that would specifically apply to unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). The proposed FAA rules would set out specific requirements for the operation of UAS, certification of their operators, registration, and display of registration markings.

Because of the pending FAA rules related to UAS (drones), officers will only enforce laws and ordinances relating to their safe operation.

### **Application to Officers**

1. Enforcement will be primarily focused on the unsafe operation of UAS over or near events with a large number of people, such as sporting events, races, outdoor concerts, and other special events. Officers may also respond to reports of unsafe UAS operation in other situations.
2. Officers may enforce the following City Code provisions:
  - Section 13-1-14(B)(3) (Prohibited Acts):  
“The operator of an aircraft may not:  
(3) operate an aircraft in a careless or reckless manner that creates a danger to another person’s health or property.”
  - Section 13-1-13 (Hazards to Air Navigation)  
“If requested to do so by an airport official or police officer acting at the direction of the air traffic controller or the director (of the Aviation Department), a person in the corporate limits of the city must immediately remove a hazard to air navigation, including a kite, balloon, model aircraft, radio-controlled aircraft, or other similar device or object.”
3. Officers should not:
  - Enforce City Code provisions related to operation of a UAS (drone) that require an airman’s certificate, or a certificate of airworthiness.