



# Training Bulletin

SANTA BARBARA POLICE DEPARTMENT



Lori L. Luhnow, Chief of Police

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Author: Lt. Kushner

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## Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS or “drones”)

On rare occasions, the SBPD Combined Communications Center receives complaints of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS or “drones”). The purpose of this bulletin is to provide some guidance on handling calls for service involving drones.

Currently, there are **no laws** specific to drones in existence for the SBPD to enforce. In June of 2016, the Federal Aviation Administration (“FAA”) released a new set of rules titled Part 107 that address drones. Below are many of the pertinent rules with bullet points. For those interested, further information is available on the FAA website:

[https://www.faa.gov/news/fact\\_sheets/news\\_story.cfm?newsId=20516](https://www.faa.gov/news/fact_sheets/news_story.cfm?newsId=20516)

- The small UAS (“drone”) operator manipulating the controls of a drone should always avoid manned aircraft and never operate it in a careless or reckless manner.
- You must keep your drone within sight. Alternatively, if you use First Person View or similar technology, you must have a visual observer always keep your aircraft within unaided sight (for example, no binoculars). First person view refers to the operation of a radio controlled (RC) UAS using an onboard camera’s cockpit view to orient and control the aircraft. However, even if you use a visual observer, you must still keep your unmanned aircraft close enough to be able to see it if something unexpected happens. Neither you nor a visual observer can be responsible for more than one unmanned aircraft operation at a time.
- You can fly during daylight or in twilight (30 minutes before official sunrise to 30 minutes after official sunset, local time) with appropriate anti-collision lighting. Minimum weather visibility is three miles from your control station. The maximum allowable altitude is 400 feet above the ground, and higher if your drone remains within 400 feet of a structure. The maximum speed is 100 mph (87 knots).

- You cannot fly a small UAS over anyone who is not directly participating in the operation, not under a covered structure, or not inside a covered stationary vehicle. Nor can a UAS be operated from a moving vehicle, unless you are flying over a sparsely populated area.

For instances where a drone is being operated in a City Park, Municipal Code 15.16.170 Powered Models Prohibited can be applicable to drones.

**15.16.170 Powered Models Prohibited.**

No person shall operate in any park, any model airplane, boat, car or other similar device that is powered by an internal combustion engine or other similar or electric power source, except in an area and at such times as designated for such use by the Director of Parks or Recreation. (Ord. 4189, 1982.)

The FAA recommends that law enforcement utilize their rules (Part 107) to **educate** drone operators and **seek voluntary compliance**.

[https://www.faa.gov/news/fact\\_sheets/news\\_story.cfm?newsId=20516](https://www.faa.gov/news/fact_sheets/news_story.cfm?newsId=20516)