

**POLICY
908A**

**EFFECTIVE
DATE
5-13-21**

**Eugene
Police Department**



Drone Team – Appendix A

908A.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this appendix is to provide additional team procedures and expectations. The Pilot-In-Command's main duty during the deployment of a drone is to operate the drone safely while accomplishing the goals of the deployment.

908A.2 TEAM MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

Drone Team members are expected to meet the following:

1. Average attendance of 80% of team training days (rolling 12-month period).
2. Responsiveness to team callouts with an average attendance of 60% (rolling 12-month period).
3. Carry a drone every patrol shift and conduct at least 2 flights per week (training or deployment).
4. Complete a minimum of 2 hours of flight time every month, in addition to flights conducted on the monthly team training day.
5. Follow all training, FAA regulations, and EPD Policy and Procedure including State Law.
6. Follow the Safety Officer's pre-flight checklist for all flights.
7. Each pilot is responsible for operating their aircraft with caution and due regard for the safety of the aircraft and persons on the ground.

908A.3 TRAINING

The Drone Team will train one day each month. New pilots will receive a basic training period as recommended by the team supervisor. In order to operate different aircraft, pilots will be required to demonstrate proficiency to the team supervisor or other approved pilot prior to being released to fly additional craft.

908A.4 PATROL DEPLOYMENTS

Pilots are expected to self-dispatch to calls where they believe a drone may be of assistance. The final decision of whether to deploy a drone is at the discretion of the pilot on scene.

On-duty pilots (including the supervisor) are expected to handle emergent drone related calls to the best of their ability with the equipment and team members working. Patrol often only

has one Drone Team Pilot working, and they are expected to handle the calls to the best of their ability.

If a patrol call becomes protracted, or the need for additional equipment and resources are needed, the supervisor should be consulted regarding activating additional team members.

Considerations for activating additional resources include, but are not limited to:

- a. The likelihood of the event continuing long enough for team member response (potentially 45 minutes to one hour).
- b. The level of need, and benefit of additional equipment or personnel.
- c. Pilot fatigue, duration the patrol pilot has been flying.

908A.5 TEAM CALL-OUTS

The Drone Team touches many different aspects of police work from emergency Patrol responses, to crime scene photography and mapping, and preplanned events, among other uses.

1. Emergency call-outs will be offered to EPEA employees based on department seniority.
2. EPEA represented employees will be given priority to complete scene mapping and photographs. On duty personnel first, and if none available, through a team call-out.
3. Pre-planned events such as protests, SWAT activations, and Investigations assistance will be assigned based on seniority of the team members available for the activation. The number of pilots required for each activation will be determined by the team supervisor based on the totality of the details known about the event. The minimum number of pilots needed will be filled with EPEA pilots (if available).
4. The team supervisor will respond to team call-outs at their discretion.

Call-out requests made to the team supervisor will be screened for the following factors:

1. Is the proposed use of a drone within the capabilities of the drone equipment and personnel to perform?
2. Does the proposed use of the drone fall within FAA and department policies and procedures of drone usage?
3. Can the drone be deployed safely given current weather conditions?
4. If the drone deployment requires a warrant has one been requested and approved?
5. Are enough trained and qualified personnel available to safely operate the drone?

908A.6 NIGHT FLIGHTS

Flying at night presents additional challenges and risks due to low visibility. Team Members are expected to follow FAA regulations regarding night flying. In addition, the following regulations are to be followed:

1. Minimum flight altitude of 250 feet.
2. Visual Line of Sight at all times by the Pilot-In-Command, unless operating with another member of the Drone Team, in close communication.

3. No flights in any area of elevation gain (south hills) without authorization from the team supervisor.
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908A.7 REQUEST FOR PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS

All public requests for the Drone Team will be approved by the Unit Supervisor prior to making any commitment.

908A.8 REQUEST FOR OUTSIDE AGENCY ASSISTANCE

The Watch Commander, Unit Lieutenant or Unit Supervisor must approve all requests for drone assistance from outside agencies. When feasible, the department will attempt to honor such requests. All EPD Policies and Procedures must be followed while operating outside of the city.

908A.9 INCIDENT REPORTING/INVESTIGATIONS

The Drone Team completes several different steps for flight and incident reporting.

1. All pilots will complete a supplemental report per department standards for any major incident.
2. All flights will be synced to AirData at the conclusion of each incident.
3. All activations/deployments will be documented in the activation log.
4. A "Drone Brief" will be sent to the team with a summary of the activation/deployment.
5. Any pilot involved in a crash will be unavailable to fly pending investigation of the crash which will take no longer than 30 days. The involved pilot will be available for callout's in a support role.

908A.10 EQUIPMENT

It is imperative that team members take care of the drone equipment.

1. Pilots should conduct a visual inspection of the drone prior to each shift.
2. If any damage is found, the equipment should be marked out of service, and an email sent to the drone team email group noting the problem and a phone call or text sent to the team supervisor.

Chris Skinner
Chief of Police