



Quick Reference Guide

DRONE INCIDENT RESPONSE



Drone Incident Response



This Quick Reference Guide (QRG) is designed for anyone who in the capacity of their duties may be required to respond to a drone incident. This QRG incorporates data from INTERPOL's *Framework for Responding to a Drone Incident* (January 2020), as well as standard practices around digital forensics, incident response, and crime scene procedures.

Following these procedures will help safeguard the integrity of any investigation. The action or inaction of a first responder to a drone incident could have serious consequences on any future investigations. It begins with you!

If you have further questions, are interested in training opportunities, or would like to learn more about SkySafe's drone forensics services, please reach out to SkySafe via training@skysafe.io or josh@skysafe.io.

Assess the Scene

- Ensure there is no immediate threat or danger to other personnel or responders; scan the area for things like fire, smoke, or any other hazardous conditions and take appropriate action. Notify higher and request assistance.
- Approach the downed drone in a manner that preserves the scene and any evidence.
- Assess the downed drone for any dangerous payloads and notify appropriate personnel (Explosive Ordnance Disposal/Fire Department).
- If the drone is still powered on/blades spinning or potentially airworthy, cover the drone with a blanket, jacket or net. If possible, remove the battery but try not to disturb the drone if the situation permits.

Preserve and Document

- If the scene is deemed safe, immediately photograph the drone before touching or disturbing the drone.
- Take 360 degree photographs of the drone and any associated components.
- Ensure gloves or other proper PPE are worn when interacting with the device.
- Power off/remove the drone's battery and isolate the drone from any potential networks, remote controllers, and potential remote wiping.
- Give consideration for the use of traditional forensics (Fingerprint/DNA).
- Package the drone and battery separately. Place the drone in a Faraday bag and place the battery in a LiPo storage bag.

Document:

- The exact recovery location (lat/log) and be descriptive (ex: "50 feet from the NW corner of the building.")
- Name of responders on scene
- Date/Time of incident
- Weather conditions

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Identify Additional Evidence

- Drones typically require a mobile device or controller to operate. If the pilot is present, strong consideration should be given to seizing the controller and any mobile device associated with the drone.
- Obtain any password or PIN codes for the mobile device.
- Secure the mobile device by putting it in airplane mode and placing it in a Faraday bag.
- Determine if there were any witnesses to the incident. If so, conduct a field expedient interview and obtain contact information.

Conduct Forensics Examination

- Once the initial threat has been neutralized, the scene is secured and documented, and additional evidence has been identified and preserved, contact your incident response and digital forensics team to begin the investigative process.

About SkySafe

Based in San Diego, CA, SkySafe was founded in 2015 and is backed by top-tier venture capital firms. The team consists of field-leading experts in hardware security, reverse engineering, digital signal processing, and software-defined radio.

www.skysafe.io