



WhitePaper

DRONE INTRUSION ALERT! NOW WHAT?

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Drone Intrusion Alert! Now What?



They are [smuggling illegal narcotics into prisons](#), [surveilling border patrol agents](#), [disrupting sporting events](#), and [wreaking havoc at airports](#) across the country. Organizations across multiple industries are feeling the impacts of malicious drone use, and scrambling to implement detection and airspace management solutions in response. These solutions range from radar to radio frequency-based detection and most offer real-time alerting to the presence of a drone in the organization's airspace. But for many who are receiving these intrusion alerts, there remains a key question: now what? **What can I do in response?**

Mitigation Strategies

When it comes to interfering with a drone's operation, the U.S. is quite limited in options for legal response, including any action that would result in physical destruction of an aircraft, interference of radio communications via jamming, or knowingly accessing the device without authorization (i.e. "hacking"). As a result, organizations are often left with one viable option: attempt to locate and confront the drone's operator.

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FAA Policies and Procedures

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has clear rules and regulations surrounding piloting aircraft, with associated penalties for non-compliance. There are two categories of pilots: Recreational Pilots, defined as those who are flying for personal enjoyment and fun, and Commercial Pilots, or those who are piloting aircraft as either part of a professional, paid service, or as a non-recreational goodwill service.

Recreational pilots must adhere to FAA guidelines surrounding recreational flight, including keeping their aircraft at or below 400 feet in a controlled airspace, having current registration marking for drones over 250 grams and carrying proof of such while flying, keeping the drone in visual line of sight, taking the recreational UAS Safety (TRUST) test and carrying proof of this while flying, and much more.

Commercial pilots have additional requirements for their aircraft and flight, most importantly the requirement of Part 107 Remote Pilot Certification, which must be on their person during all flights and must be renewed every two years, and the requirement to register all drones used for commercial purposes.

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Failure to Comply

Violation of FAA rules and regulations surrounding piloting of drones for recreational and/or commercial purposes may result in a warning letter, suspension or revocation of a pilot's license, denial of future or current applications, fines, and in some cases incarceration. One of the most common violations of FAA regulations surrounding drone flight is the failure to register a drone that requires registration, and the FAA is authorized to assess up to \$27,500 in civil penalties and up to \$250,000 in criminal penalties and/or up to three years imprisonment for this infraction.

In addition to FAA regulations, many states have their own local restrictions that may be useful avenues for prosecution, including noise ordinances and rules around drones being used for harassment.



Reporting

Knowing the rules and regulations is the first step, but in an incident response scenario an organization also needs to know how to report the incident in order to pursue action against a pilot. In most cases, the appropriate response is to inform the FAA via your state's [Flight Standards District Office](#). In addition, organizations should notify their local law enforcement agency to ensure an official police report is filed, as prosecution of a pilot is one of the most effective means of mitigation in drone incidents. In many cases, first responders aren't trained in the legalities surrounding proper drone piloting, which is why SkySafe has designed a training program around [UAV Forensics](#) and incident response. We are extremely passionate about promoting safe flying practices and protecting the skies from malicious drones.

If you'd like to know more about this [training program](#) or this topic, in general, please reach out to SkySafe at training@skysafe.io; we would love to hear from you!