



North Carolina Emergency Management

NC-UAS

Statewide sUAS Deployable Pilot Database

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Program Overview

The use of Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) or as they are commonly referred to as “drones” has rapidly grown in popularity over the past year in public safety applications. With uses ranging from hazardous materials reconnaissance to search and rescue, sUAS utilization for emergency response is an emerging capability. The NC sUAS Deployable Pilot Program or “NC-UAS” was established to create a framework for sUAS pilots statewide by completing a standardized task list, providing documentation of completion to North Carolina Emergency Management, and to ultimately be included on a database of qualified emergency response sUAS pilots that can be called upon by local emergency management agencies to assist during disaster operations and emergency response.

Authority

Under Chapter 166-A of the North Carolina General Statutes, the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management has the statutory authority to coordinate resources for emergency and disaster response. N.C.S.L. 2017-160 amended N.C.G.S §15-A-300.1 and allows for an emergency management agency, as defined in Chapter 166A to use an unmanned aircraft system for all functions and activities related to emergency management, including incident command, area reconnaissance, search and rescue, preliminary damage assessment, hazard risk management, and floodplain mapping.

The North Carolina Emergency Operations Center

The North Carolina Emergency Operations Center (State EOC) is located in Raleigh, NC. It is home to the state warning point and the 24 hour Operations Center. It is here that local first responders and emergency managers request assistance with obtaining resources from outside of their jurisdiction. This is accomplished through county to county mutual aid, state deployment, or by assistance with coordination through another channel such as assistance from the private sector. When a local emergency manager decides that they need a sUAS to assist them with an incident and they do not have the resource available locally, they will contact the State EOC and request assistance with filling the resource.

Keys to Success

In order to ensure NC-UAS is successfully integrated into emergency response statewide, it is imperative that qualified sUAS pilots are identified and made available to emergency responders through an organized statewide database. The following keys to success have been established to guide the NC UAS Program.

1. Qualification
2. Education and Training
3. Flight Standards

NC UAS Program Pilot Requirements

sUAS pilots that wish to join NC-UAS and become a deployable asset in the state database must complete the following requirements in addition to a completed application.

Qualification

Copies of required qualifications must be submitted for a completed NC-UAS application.

1. Federal Aviation Administration Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate
2. North Carolina Department of Transportation Government Operator Certificate
3. North Carolina Department of Transportation Commercial Operator Certificate

Education

Copies of required education and training must be submitted for a completed NC-UAS application.

1. 24 hours of logged flight time as the Pilot in Command (PIC).

Organizational Affiliation and Insurance

1. A letter of affiliation from a local public safety agency on official letterhead, signed by the agency head must be attached to the completed application. The letter must explicitly state that the organization supports the applicant participating in the NC-UAS Program database for statewide or regional deployment.
2. The agency head and the applicant must sign and date the North Carolina Emergency Management release document.
3. Copies of proof of the organization's Worker's Compensation and Liability Insurance must be submitted with the completed application.

NC-UAS Flight Standards

NC-UAS provides local responders with a database of qualified sUAS pilots for emergency response. All program participants are expected to follow the program's flight standards.

Legal Considerations

NC-UAS pilots shall follow all federal, state, and local laws governing the use of sUAS platforms. Volunteer pilots are considered emergency management workers as defined in N.C.G.S. §166A-19.60 and are acting subject to the order and control of or at the request of the North Carolina State Government, or any political subdivision thereof. Failure to follow this standard will result in termination from the database and the program.

Pre-Flight Checks

It is the responsibility of the PIC to create and conduct pre-flight checks prior to flying any mission. This may include:

- Software upgrades
- Maintenance checks
- Weather checks.
- Flight restrictions and proximity to airfields.
- File a Notice to Airman (NOTAM) when appropriate and required.
- Safety briefing of visual observer and others in the general vicinity.

PIC Standards

It is the complete responsibility of the PIC to determine if he or she is in flight ready condition. The PIC shall:

1. Be well rested, free of illness, and not under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
2. Possess general awareness of the geographical features, obstructions and hazards of the area surrounding the flight airspace.
3. Be briefed and understand the airspace restrictions.
4. Maintain an understanding of the laws governing the flight and use of sUAS and abide by them.
5. Operate within the scope of the PIC's capabilities, training, education, and qualification.



NC-UAS Program Application

Date of Application Submission	
Pilot Name (First, Middle, Last)	
Pilot Date of Birth (Month, Day, Year)	
Pilot Address	
Pilot City and Zip	
Pilot Phone Number	
Pilot Email Address	

sUAS platform make and model	
sUAS platform owner	
sUAS platform owner address	
sUAS platform owner city and zip	

Please list your sUAS capabilities (i.e. camera, video, FLIR, etc.):

Please list the counties in which you are available to deploy:



NC-UAS Program Application

Pilot FAA Remote Pilot Certificate Number	
Pilot North Carolina Driver's License Number	

Pilot Organizational Affiliation	
Organization Type	
Agency Head	
Agency Head Phone Number	
Organization Address	
Organization City and Zip	
Organization Phone Number	

Does the applicant have any known medical conditions that could interfere with acting as the Pilot in Command of a sUAS platform?

Has the applicant ever been convicted of any crime other than a minor traffic citation? If yes, please explain.

Pilot Current Flight Hours	
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Required Attachments:

1. FAA Remote Pilot Certificate
2. NCDOT Government Operator Certificate
3. Signed NC Emergency Management release document
4. Agency Affiliation Letter
5. Proof of Insurances
6. Copy of flight log, documenting 24 hours as PIC.

Completed applications and required documents should be provided to nc-uas@ncdps.gov



NC-UAS Program Application

I, _____ attest that the information provided in this application is truthful and that I have accurately represented my qualifications and capabilities to the State of North Carolina and the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management. I understand that participation in the NC-UAS Program is entirely voluntary and that I will not be compensated for training, response, standby, equipment, damage, or anything related to my participation in the program. I fully understand that the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management is not liable for injury, equipment damage, or any violation of the laws surrounding operation of a sUAS. It is the responsibility of the sponsoring organization to maintain all applicable insurances on the applicant. The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management is a coordinating agency for emergency response. When the applicant is deploying as part of the NC-UAS Program, he/she is a volunteer and an emergency management worker as defined by N.C.G.S. §166A-19.60 and is providing services to local responders and will follow the full direction of the Incident Commander while operating on scene of the local incident.

Applicant Signature

Date

Applicant Name Printed

Agency Head Signature

Date

Agency Head Name Printed



NC-UAS Program Application

For Internal Use Only:

Application Reviewed By: _____

Date of Review: _____

_____ Applicant Approved

_____ Applicant Denied

Division of Emergency Management Authorizing Signature

Division of Emergency Management Name Printed with Title

Date