

Fairmount Fire Protection District (FFPD) Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS) Program Overview

Mission

The Fairmount Aerial Support Team (FAST) will leverage unmanned aircraft technology for increased situational awareness, and by doing so increase the safety and effectiveness of our First Responders, especially during emergency events.

Overview

Improvements in unmanned aircraft (drone) technology and dropping prices have made the acquisition of these tools feasible to even the smallest fire departments. FFPDs unmanned aircraft program builds upon our core values and mission of being proactive, progressive, responsive, and excelling at providing professional emergency response services to our community. With this program FFPD will essentially add an 'aircraft division' to this department. The fundamental benefit of unmanned aircraft are their ability to quickly provide an aerial view of an emergency incident without exposing First Responders to potential danger unnecessarily. This facilitates a rapid and improved response effort.

Suitable missions include:

- A rapid, 360 degree assessment of a burning structure(s)
- Search & Rescue assistance
- Wildfire assessment & size-up
- Rapid assessment of HAZMAT incidents, CBRNE, and natural or man-made disasters
- Building inspections in hard to reach or dangerous locations
- First Responder training & evaluation events

Transparency, Privacy & Policies

FFPD recognizes the need for effective management and oversight of this tool, which includes the following areas:

- **Public Information about FFPD's unmanned aircraft program – Website FAQ**

FFPD will maintain a web page specific to the FAST program, providing information about this program, and unmanned aircraft in general.

- **Privacy & Data Retention**

FFPD recognizes that privacy is constitutionally guaranteed, and we are committed to fully supporting our served public in these rights. FFPD recognizes that privacy is an extremely sensitive area, and the FAST team will make every effort to reduce or eliminate unnecessary intrusion by way of recorded video/photos during incident operations. We believe the benefits of this technology offer unprecedented increases in First Responder safety, but only when coupled with adequate preservation of privacy.

Video/photo data can be categorized into three areas:

1. Personally identifiable information (PII) – this type of data will be retained for 90 days, then deleted if not relevant to the incident or investigation during which it was taken.
2. Training data – data captured during training events will be retained for review and educational purposes.
3. Incident specific data – video/photos taken during an incident will be retained following existing FFPD incident data retention guidelines.

All FAST video/photo data will be securely stored and accessible only by authorized personnel. Release of any video/photo to authorized parties must be approved by FFPD Public Information Officer.

- **Operational Policies & Procedures**

This includes: Pilot training & certification – FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot certification, flight operation procedures / guidelines / checklists, flight logging, and aircraft maintenance schedules.

- **Administrative Oversight**

The FAST program will undergo a review every two (2) years by FFPD leadership.