

Potential Indicators of Suspicious Activities Related To Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) / Drones

What Should I Consider Suspicious?

Individuals or Groups who:

- Operate a video-equipped UAS near restricted or sensitive locations like schools, power plants or military installations
- An operator who follows an individual or group with a UAS
- Operate UAS during low-light or evening hours, in violation of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations.
- Claim they are operating a UAS for commercial purposes without appropriate documentation
- Simultaneously possess a UAS and material that can be converted to an explosive or incendiary device (model rocket fuses, black powder, aluminum and iron oxide powder, magnesium, etc.)
- Attempt to incorporate non-standard equipment into a ready-to-fly UAS (like a bucket to carry something)
- Inquiries (online or in-person) about weaponizing UAS or exceeding manufacturers' specified lift capacity, range or altitude limitations
- Has critical infrastructure maps, drawings or plans
- Makes unusual modifications to UAS (camouflaging with paint, hiding on-board lights, etc.)
- Reports of UAS tests that incorporate a payload or tests of payload delivery mechanisms
- Attempt to modify a UAS along with research on explosives or chemical agents
- Repeated encounters of a UAS in or near restricted spaces
- Failure to register UAS in accordance with FAA guidelines

It is important to remember that just because someone's speech, actions, beliefs, appearance, or way of life is different, does not mean that he or she is suspicious.

Special Considerations for Retailers

- ✓ A person who suspiciously and abruptly terminates the purchase of UAS in response to routine sales questions (name, purpose, gift wrap, or registration for warranty)
- ✓ Visits retailer and, after asking extensive questions or handling/testing UAS models, fails to make a purchase
- ✓ Makes cash purchases of expensive, high-payload capacity UAS
- ✓ Purchases an unusually large quantity of UAS
- ✓ Attempts to purchase a UAS based primarily on payload capacity
- ✓ A person who makes unusual inquiries regarding technological features, such as GPS or first-person-view video that enable use beyond operator's line of sight

Be Part of the Solution

- ✓ Establish contact with law enforcement to report suspicious behavior associated with UAS
- ✓ If operating a UAS between 0.55 and 55 pounds, ensure it is registered with the FAA (<https://registermyuas.faa.gov/>)
- ✓ Make note of suspicious statements, behaviors
- ✓ Understand and comply with local ordinance related to restrictions on UAS operation
- ✓ Visit <http://knowbeforeyoufly.org/> to learn more about commercial and recreational regulations associated with UAS use

Ensuring domestic security is a community effort. By learning what to look for, you can make a positive contribution to domestic security.

Do not jeopardize your safety or the safety of others. In an emergency, call 911.

This information was adapted from indicators provided by the FDLE. For additional suspicious activity indicators, please visit the Florida See Something, Say Something website at www.FLSeeSay.org.