



SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS

Public safety and emergency response officials can gain key insights from NFPA® 2400, *Standard for Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) Used for Public Safety Operations*, and also learn how to develop and integrate a sUAS (commonly referred to as drone) program into their incident response operations. The standard covers drone implementation, deployment, and operation in the public safety community, including the creation of professional qualifications necessary for public safety operations. Some of the key areas in the standard are listed below.

Benefits of a Uniform Standard

NFPA 2400 provides the foundation for departments to develop drone programs and it covers the implementation, deployment, and use of drones in the public safety community to enhance capabilities in inspections, search and rescue, fire scene efforts, and other operations. The release of NFPA 2400 provides a uniform standard for the use of drones by public safety agencies and offers a roadmap for using these devices for incident response operations, including the following:

- Primary concerns and procedures for integrating drones into a public safety program
- Considerations and organizational deployment requirements for program development, assessment, general operations, and multiple aircraft operations
- Professional qualifications for public safety personnel, and minimum job performance requirements that can be evaluated and tested for remote pilots in command
- Pre-flight checklists, risk assessment procedures, and considerations of mission objectives
- Requirements for maintenance of drones, such as cleaning, decontamination, and recordkeeping

Drone Program Criteria Guidance

NFPA 2400 provides a clear set of guidance on ways to effectively implement a drone program, including requirements providing details on developing program criteria, assessing operational needs, and considering purchase needs. Some of these are listed here.

Program Criteria

Prior to implementing a drone program, public safety entities must adopt policies and procedures that address the following:

1. Overall program management
2. Operational procedures
3. Personnel qualifications, training, and certifications
4. Safety
5. Care and maintenance of the aircraft, systems, and equipment

Operational Needs Assessment

The deployment of drone operations must be assessed based on the following:

1. Mission objectives
2. Risk assessment
3. Availability and capability of resources

Purchase Specifications

Any purchase specifications must consider the following:

1. Operational requirements
2. Minimum system configuration and specifications
3. Quantitative data demonstrating drone capabilities
4. Sustainable life cycle



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Maintenance Guidance for Drone Programs

Once the drone program is established, maintenance must be considered. NFPA 2400 requires that maintenance programs identify the following:

1. List of personnel authorized to perform each type of maintenance
2. Necessary qualifications of personnel authorized to perform maintenance
3. Maintenance that can only be performed by the manufacturer

As part of the maintenance program, NFPA 2400 also requires that public safety entities have procedures for the following:

1. Routine cleaning
2. Decontamination
3. Maintenance necessary due to operational applications
4. Maintenance necessary due to operating environment
5. Storage requirements

Learn More

- ▶ Visit nfpa.org/2400 for the latest on the standards development process and other NFPA 2400 news.
- ▶ Access the latest news and information at: nfpa.org/2400news.
- ▶ Access NFPA drone training for administrators and operators, a knowledge base, research, and related resources at: nfpa.org/drones.
- ▶ Learn about other NFPA emergency response training, tools, and solutions at: nfpa.org/ersolutions



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