



Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

The Minneapolis Police Department is establishing a program to use unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), also known as drones, to help with public safety activity and emergency response. This is similar to programs put in place by more than 70 law enforcement agencies throughout the state of Minnesota.

The City's use of unmanned aerial vehicles will be guided by Minnesota State Statutes (Chapter 82, section 5, subdivision 12 a-b) established in May of 2020. These drones serve a number of purposes when it comes to helping to provide safety for community members and officers alike, especially when other resources are not available or might be less effective.

In addition to the use of a UAV pursuant to a search warrant, other examples of how one may be used include:

- During or in the aftermath of an emergency situation that involved a risk of death or bodily harm
- Over a public event where there is a heightened risk to the safety of participants or bystanders
- To address the risk of a terrorist attack by a specific individual or organization if it is determined that credible intelligence indicates a risk
- To prevent the loss of life and property in natural or man-made disasters and to facilitate operational planning, rescue, and recovery operations in the aftermath
- To conduct a threat assessment in advance of a specific event
- To collect information from a public area if there is a reasonable suspicion of criminal activity
- To collect information for crash reconstruction purposes after a serious or deadly collision on a public road
- Over a public area for officer training or public relations purposes
- At the written request of a government entity for a specific cause

These reasons are laid out and are to be reported to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA).

The unmanned aerial vehicles will not be used in the following situations:

- To conduct random surveillance activities. Its use will comply with constitutional and privacy rights.
- To target a person based solely on individual characteristics, like race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, gender, or sexual orientation.
- To harass, intimidate or discriminate against any individual or group.
- To conduct personal business of any type.

Policies for the Minneapolis Police Department's use of these vehicles will be easily accessed online once the program is put into place. It is expected that the Minneapolis Police Department will take public feedback on the program from August 8, 2022, through August 24, 2022.

[Submit feedback by filling out the Police drone public comment form.](#)

[Visit the Police Department web page.](#)