



Commercial Drone On Site Operational Suggestions

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The following is a list of suggestions that can facilitate the safety of your patients, employees, first responders, incoming/outgoing aircraft, and the communities you serve. This is certainly not an all-inclusive list but will assist you in developing a plan in which to safely handle drone operation at and around your facility(ies). It is important to note that the rules and regulations regarding drone operation are rapidly evolving with changes being made on an ongoing basis.

- Ensure that all contractors/vendors that you utilize are compliant with the latest drone rules and regulations. If they have a commercial drone Section 333 Exemption or a Part 107, proof should be provided to you prior to drone operation along with their drone registration number. This can be accomplished by adding this requirement into your contract language.
- Require that all drone operators provide proof of liability insurance in case there is an incident or accident involving the drone. This can be added to the contract language as well.
- Consider requiring that the contractor/drone operator undergo an exterior facility briefing, including the location of the helipad, prior to drone operations.
- Notify your local air medical provider with the date(s) and time(s) a drone will be operated at/within two nautical miles of one of your facilities where a heliport is located. The provider can then post this information on the website www.weatherturndown.com to inform all area air medical programs. (*This is a restricted site that is only accessible to air medical programs.*)
- If there is another hospital within two nautical miles of the facility where the drone will be operated, please notify them with the date, times, and locations of operation as a safety precaution.
- Educate your internal staff on the safety issues surrounding drone operation and helicopter EMS at your facilities. Everyone should understand the importance of coordination as well as early and ongoing communication regarding a drone onsite.
- Develop a process for internal organizational communication when a drone is going to be utilized by any hospital department or entity (e.g., marketing, plant operations, etc.). All facility staff should be advised of the scheduled drone presence to reduce concern and unnecessary reporting.
- Confirm with the drone operator that they have determined if there are any local Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) that would affect your helipad and the scheduled drone use.
- Notify any incoming/onsite/departing aircraft of the presence of a drone via their communications center. Hospital Security is the most appropriate choice to provide the notification as they are always involved in security of the helipad.
- Assign a member of your staff (public affairs, marketing, plant ops, etc.) to escort the drone operator while the drone is on your property. Provide a means of direct communication between the staff member and security personnel for notification purposes in cases where an air medical helicopter is en route to your facility. The staff member can then ensure that the drone is grounded until the helicopter has departed the hospital. Be cognizant of the possibility that one of your local fire departments could use your helipad during this time as a pre-determined landing zone (PDLZ) for a critical scene patient. This could occur with very short notice.
- Contact **FLIGHT FOR LIFE** if you need additional information or have questions.