
Why Participate in The Expanded Program?

A large portion of the RDPO region is covered by "Controlled Airspace." Regardless of public safety affiliation, UAS Part 107 pilots are not authorized to fly without a waiver. Regardless of public safety status, Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) flights violate FAA rules and CFR's. By law, UAS are limited to 400 feet above the ground.

The RDPO Public Safety Aviation Program has obtained FAA waivers to fly where typical pilots cannot. The RDPO program promotes interoperability, mutual aid, standardized training, and joint information sharing.

FAA Waivers Obtained

The RDPO Public Safety Aviation Program has obtained three waivers, known as COA's or Certificate of Authorization, which are necessary for Public Safety to fly in compliance with the FAA during regular operations.

These waivers cover Clark County, WA and the entire state of Oregon.:

- Flying in Controlled Airspace (Class C,D &E)
- Tactical Beyond Visual Line of Sight (TBVLOS)
- Above 400 feet (up to 1,200ft in Class G Air)

Requirements

Agencies interested in flying under the waivers must sign an agreement, commit to the post part 107 training, enroll in the management platform, and participate in monthly training.

Contact

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Background

The RDPO Public Safety Aviation Program was initiated by the RDPO Fire & EMS workgroup in 2018. The group collaborated with seven other RDPO workgroups. Funding was provided by the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI). The overarching goal was to establish a foundation for UAS use in the RDPO region.



RDPO

Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization

Unified. Prepared. Resilient.

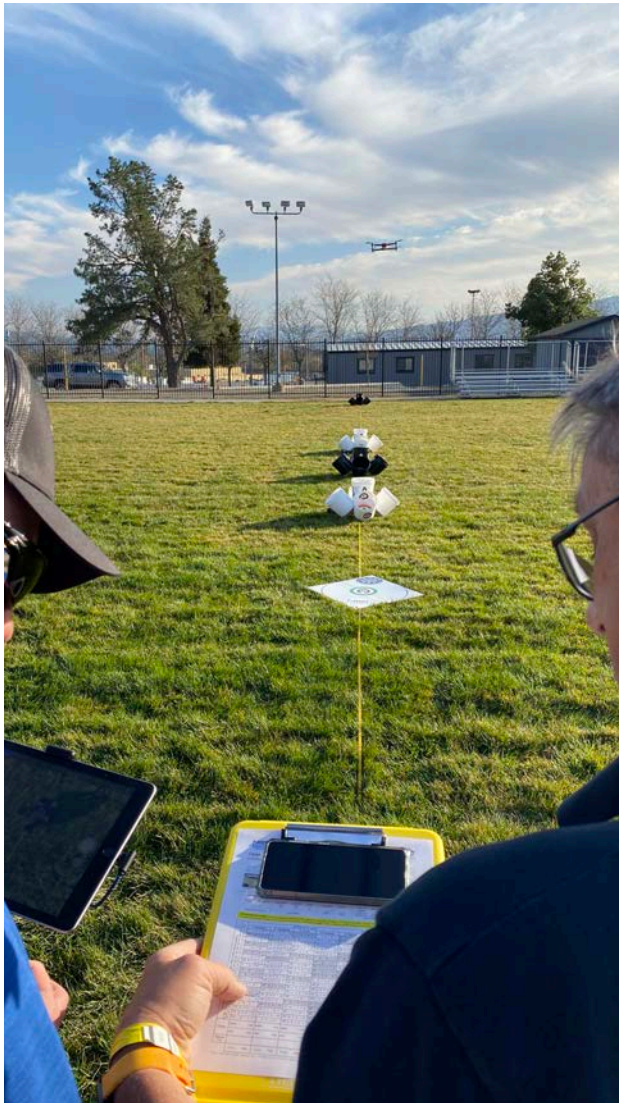


RDPO Public Safety Aviation Program

An Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) specific aviation program, funded by the Urban Areas Security Initiative and supported by the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization.



Covering Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, and Washington counties in Oregon and Clark County, Washington.



What is UAS?

Uncrewed Aircraft Systems - sometimes referred to as drones. Drones are used in war. UAS is how the RDPO Public Safety Aviation program refers to this type of aircraft.

Program Goal

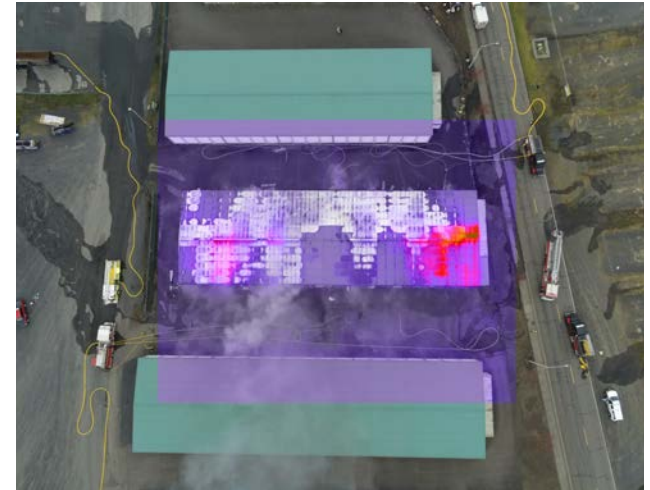
UAS operations, policy, training, and aircraft for multi-agency responses and mutual aid across the region. The goal is to establish regional gold standards.

UAS Uses

Search and Rescue, inspections (roads, bridges, towers, buildings, roofs), volume metrics, map making, 3D modeling, wildfire, structure fire, and more!

UAS Pilots

UAS pilots can be a wide variety of individuals. It is not gender specific and can be accomplished by veterans and people with disabilities.



Standards We Utilize

This program was developed using several recognized aviation standards, recognized UAS programs, best practices, and affiliation with key aviation safety organizations. The Joint Authorities for Rulemaking of Unmanned Systems (JARUS) guidelines on Specific Operations Risk Assessment (SORA) is the foundation for our Safety Management System. Also included is NFPA 2400, National Institute for Standards and Training (NIST), National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG), USFS, BLM, and several other state and local UAS programs.

Two Levels of Agency Participation

Level 1: The gold standard UAS program package Includes: a sample policy, Operations Manual, and UAS Observer training.

Level 2 (Expanded): Ability to fly under the RDPO/Scappoose Fire COA's, requires signing a written agreement, prerequisite training, Basic Remote Pilot In Charge class (40 hours), NIST standard testing, quarterly training, and participation in the UAS management platform (Additional Cost). Participation includes access to the Regional UAS SharePoint Site.