

The University of Texas at Dallas Unmanned Aerial Vehicle / Drone Guidelines



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I. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle / Drone Overview

a. Liability - Texas Tort Claims Act (Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 101.021)

... a governmental unit is liable for personal injuries or property damage caused by the negligent acts of its employees acting within the scope of the employment – if:

the damage or injury arises from the operation or use of a motordriven vehicle or motor-driven equipment; and

the employee would be personally liable to the claimant according to Texas law...

b. Insurance

The University of Texas System provides liability and physical damage coverage for Unmanned Aerial Systems. Coverage must be specifically requested and is not offered under a blanket policy.

To qualify for coverage, UAV's must be owned by UTD and used for an institutional business purpose. UTD employees who fly drones must be qualified to fly under 14 CFR Part 107.

UTD owned UAV's operated by employees must be insured for liability. UTD drone contractors must provide proof of general liability insurance. All drones flown on the campus must be registered with University Police.

II. UTD Processes

a. Drone Registration

All University owned or acquired UAV's must be properly registered in accordance with FAA requirements. The pilot in command must be approved by UT Dallas and appropriately licensed for the flight being conducted. Recreational drone flights on the UT Dallas property are prohibited. All Drones flown on the campus must be registered with University Police.

b. Drone Insurance Coverage Request

To request coverage for a UTD owned drone operated by UTD employees, please complete the Drone Insurance Request Form and forward to UTD Risk Management.