

Flying in the **Drone Zone**

As drones proliferate, manned aircraft pilots face new safety challenges. The number of drone operators exceeds that of manned aircraft pilots, increasing potential for midair collision. What can you do to fly more safely through the Drone Zone?

Where is the Drone Zone?

The Drone Zone is EVERYWHERE — in any airspace, altitude, and phase of flight.

- While most small drones operate below 400' AGL and beyond 5 SM from airports, there are many exceptions.
- Airports and ATC may know of drone operations in the airport environment without notifying pilots.

Before you fly

- Review NOTAMS, aeronautical charts, Chart Supplements, and other resources for drone avoidance planning. Contact Flight Service for drone updates.
- Be familiar with the Unmanned Aircraft Activity symbol.
- Consider that drone operations may take place near airports, public gatherings, and newsworthy events.

In the Drone Zone: Defensive Flying Tips

- Assume drone operators may not know or follow the rules.
- Expect erratic maneuvers and unpredictable flight paths by drones.
- Recognize the significant limitations of see-and-avoid regarding drones. Remain vigilant.
- Anticipate drone operations at fires, public gatherings and points-of-interest.
- Monitor ATC; ask for drone updates. Report drone incidents to ATC.
- Avoid complacency; be prepared for the unknown.
- Fly predictably & visibly (lights on), so drone operators can better avoid you.



