

For Immediate Release

Aviators Model Code of Conduct Initiative Releases

Safety Guidance for Manned Aircraft Pilots Operating in the Presence of Drones

June 1, 2016 – *Flight Safety in the Drone Age (FSDA)* was released today by the initiative’s [Permanent Editorial Board](#). FSDA offers voluntary guidance to advance the safety of flight when operating near unmanned aircraft, or drones. The product of extensive peer review within the manned and unmanned aviation communities, it builds upon the foundation of the Aviators Model Code of Conduct (AMCC) initiative, a project of over 15 years’ duration. The guidance addresses critical issues resulting from the presence of drones.



As drones become more common, and as recreational, commercial, and public drone applications proliferate, manned aircraft operators face new challenges. There are now more registered drone operators than manned aircraft pilots, and the likelihood of midair collisions is increasing. Safety standards, rules, and guidelines for drone operators are available and continue to be refined, but guidance for pilots flying aircraft in the vicinity of drones is sorely lacking. Training and safety regimes for manned aircraft are well-defined, data-driven, and rigorously implemented and validated—but *they include nothing material with regard to drones*.

The FSDA guidance is general in nature. It assumes that pilot awareness and response are necessary where drone safety technologies and rules may not yet have been developed fully or implemented effectively. Pilots are encouraged to review and selectively integrate these recommendations into their operations.

The guidance is organized in five sections (presented by phase of flight, not necessarily in order of importance): (1) General Education and Preparation, (2) Preflight Operations, (3) In-flight Operations, (4) Post-flight Operations, and (5) Aviation Community. Complementing the FSDA is a safety awareness poster and an annotated technical paper providing analysis, perspective, and support. FSDA is a living document and will be periodically updated to reflect changes in standards, practice, and the aviation environment. The initiative’s drone-related materials are at secureav.com/drones.

Nick Mayhew, Chair of the US Helicopter Safety Team (USHST) Training Working Group stated, “helicopters operating in the low-level environment are particularly at risk from these ‘flying cameras’ intent on getting the best picture. I fully support AMCC’s sensible approach to educating our rotary pilots.” Andrew Niemyer, President, Cirrus Owners and Pilots Association remarked, “in the increasingly crowded airspace we fly in every day, *Flight Safety in the Drone Age* is a clear and concise guide to safe practices for all of us who share the skies.”

FSDA is the latest work product from the AMCC Initiative. Its prior publications include a family of aviators’ codes of conduct addressing: aviation maintenance technicians, aviators, flight instructors, glider aviators, helicopter pilots, light sport aviators, seaplane pilots, and student pilots. Developed as a volunteer effort, each is available as a free public service along with supporting materials at www.secureav.com. For more information about **Flight Safety in the Drone Age**, contact PEB@secureav.com.
