



OFFICE OF HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF RICHARD W. STANEK

FAA Certification & Policies for Use of Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)

Hennepin Co Sheriff's Office Equipment:

The agency currently has one unmanned aerial system (UAS). The UAS is manufactured by DJI and is an *Inspire 1* model. It is a quadcopter design that weighs about 8 pounds, and its dimensions are roughly 1.5 feet by 1.4 feet. The *Inspire 1* is a commercial grade UAS, meaning the general public can purchase the same system. The cost of the UAS was approximately \$4,000. Here is a photograph.



Privacy:

Use of the UAS will be in strict accordance with constitutional and privacy rights, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, and our internal policy.

FAA Requirements:

The FAA regulates the use of our UAS. Over the past several months, we've worked with the FAA and were granted a Certificate of Authorization in March of this year, which allowed us to begin training. We expect to complete our training requirements and receive our final authorization from the FAA in June of this year. The FAA has several requirements that we must follow pursuant to our Certificate of Authorization:

- Cannot be flown at night;
- Cannot be flown over a height of 400 vertical feet;

- Operator must be a licensed private pilot;
- Operator must always have an observer by his/her side while operating the UAS;
- Operator and observer must pass an FAA Class 2 medical physical;
- Must be operated in the line-of-sight (unaided by binoculars) of the operator and observer; and
- FAA issued our agency a unique "N" or identification number that must be displayed on our UAS.

Restrictions for Use:

In addition to the regulatory requirements placed on us by the FAA, we have an internal policy that adds additional restrictions on our use of the UAS. While drafting our internal policy, we consulted with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Minnesota, and we solicited their feedback on policy considerations. Per our policy, the UAS will only be used for Search & Rescue missions, and each mission requires written authorization from the Chief Deputy.

Our UAS is prohibited from being used for:

- Surveillance activities;
- Targeting a person based solely on individual characteristics, such as, but not limited to: race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, gender, or sexual orientation;
- Harassing, intimidating, or discriminating against any individual or group; or
- Conducting personal business of any type.

Data collected by the UAS that is not related to a criminal investigation must be destroyed within 30 days of collection.