

'LAW'

CERTIFY THE SKIES

LEARN TO NAVIGATE THE FAA TRUST
CERTIFICATION WITH CONFIDENCE



Lesson Objective: Students will analyze the rules and regulations for being a recreational drone pilot. They will demonstrate the knowledge and skills required to pass the FAA Recreational Drone Trust certification.

Materials Needed:

- Computer access for online resources
- Whiteboard and markers
- FAA guidelines and regulations (online or printed)

Resources:

1. What is recreational flight? (Page 2)
2. FAA Trust Test Activity (Page 3-4)
3. Recreational Flight Scenario (Page 5-7)
 - #1: The Beach Blunder (Page 5)
 - #2: The Case of the Eagle Encounter (Page 6)
 - #3: An Accidental Airport Intrusion (Page 7)

Lesson Steps:

- Class Poll: Get a class count of students who have: flown a drone, own a drone, seen a drone flying either on video or in person or know someone who owns or has flown a drone.
2. Discuss the increasing popularity of drones especially people flying drones for fun in places like parks, and neighborhoods.
 3. Access, review, and discuss questions for Resource 1: FAA “What is recreational flight?”
 4. Use Resource 2 to have each student complete the FAA Trust Test Activity.
 5. Break class into small groups and assign them a flight scenario from Resource 3. Instruct each group to read, review and answer the questions for their scenario.
 6. Have each group present their scenario and discuss their answers.

45 MIN
LESSON

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Recreational flight is often thought of as flying for “fun” but what exactly does that mean? Let’s explore how the Federal Aviation Administration defines recreational flight. Click the image below to link to the FAA recreational flight page.



Use the questions below to guide a class discussion on what you learned about recreational flight from the FAA.

Discussion questions:

- What is the difference between a recreational flyer and a commercial flyer?
- What are the primary FAA regulations that recreational drone pilots need to follow?
- What safety measures and precautions does the FAA recommend for recreational drone flights?
- How do these safety measures contribute to the overall safety of drone operations?
- Why do recreational drone pilots need to be aware of different airspace classifications?
- What is the TRUST test for recreational pilots?

RESOURCE 2: TRUST TEST ACTIVITY

Activity Objective: Earn your Trust Test Certificate in order to legally fly a drone recreationally (for fun).

Materials Needed:

- Computer access for online resources

Resources:

1. Overview video: Trust test information
2. Recreational UAV Trust Training and Certification

Activity Steps:

1. Each student will watch the overview video: Trust Test Information.
2. Students will complete the Trust Test via the UAV Coach resource.
3. Upon completion and passing their trust test students will print out their Trust Certificate.



RESOURCE 2: TRUST TEST ACTIVITY

OVERVIEW VIDEO: TRUST TEST INFORMATION



[Click on image to access trust training & certificate](#)



FIREWALL ALT SOURCES

RESOURCE 3: FLIGHT SCENARIO #1

THE BEACH BLUNDER

05



Background: A drone enthusiast decides to fly their drone at a local beach. The beach is frequently visited by families, joggers, and picnickers. The drone operator, excited about capturing aerial shots of the beach and ocean, takes off without thoroughly checking the surroundings.

The Incident: Although it's nice day the wind off the ocean is strong and the drone operator loses control of the drone. The drone crashes near a group of people having a picnic on the beach. Fortunately, no one is injured, but the incident raises concerns among beachgoers about the safety of recreational drone flights in public spaces.

Discussion Questions:

- How could the drone operator have better prepared for the flight to ensure the safety of others at the beach?
- What FAA regulations might have been violated in this scenario?
- What measures could be taken to prevent similar incidents in public spaces?
- If the drone had crashed into people on the beach what injuries may have occurred?
- Would this be considered a recreational flight?

RESOURCE 3: FLIGHT SCENARIO #2

THE CASE OF THE EAGLE ENCOUNTER



Background: A drone pilot is excited to capture some stunning aerial footage to put on their YouTube channel. They decide to go to a nearby State Park to fly as it has beautiful mountain views. The pilot performs a safety check on their drone before launching and makes sure no people are in the area.

The Incident: The drone pilot unknowingly flies their drone too close to a protected wildlife area where bald eagles are nesting. The drone's presence agitates the eagles, leading to a disturbance in their nesting behavior. Wildlife officials observe this disruption and trace it back to the drone pilot. The drone pilot faces fines and is educated on the importance of respecting wildlife areas and understanding the potential impact of drones on animal behavior. The incident raises awareness about the need for drone pilots to be informed about and comply with local wildlife protection laws.

Discussion Questions:

- What measures can drone pilots take to avoid disturbing wildlife?
- How could the drone pilot have prevented this situation?
- What are the potential consequences of drones disturbing wildlife?
- Is it legal to fly in a State Park?
- Since the pilot was going to post their drone footage on their YouTube channel would this flight be considered recreational or commercial?

RESOURCE 3: FLIGHT SCENARIO #3

AN ACCIDENTAL AIRPORT INTRUSION

07



Background: A drone hobbyist club meets monthly to fly their drones in a recreational field that is close to a small rural airport. They practice basic flight skills and enjoy hanging out with each other and sharing their enthusiasm for drones.

The Incident: On this day one of the drone club pilots accidentally enters restricted airspace. The drone is spotted by air traffic control, causing concern and a temporary halt in airport operations. The incident triggers a swift response from local authorities to locate and educate the drone operator. The drone pilot is cautioned about the dangers of flying near airports and the importance of adhering to FAA regulations regarding drone flight paths and altitude limits. This incident served as a reminder to the local drone club about the critical importance of being aware of their surroundings and restricted zones.

Discussion Questions:

- Why is it dangerous to fly drones near airports?
- What could the drone pilot have done to be more aware of the restricted airspace?
- How can drone pilots ensure they are flying in safe and legal areas?
- If this incident had happened at a large urban airport how might the outcome for the pilot been different?