

# Flying Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) for Recreational Purpose

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), typically, but not limited to things like drones, model RC airplanes, and RC helicopters that weigh more than 250 grams (0.55 lbs). The U.S. Congress passed Federal Law regarding the operation of UAS and is outlined in [US Code 44809: Exception for limited recreational operations of unmanned aircraft](#). **Failure to abide by these laws can result in a significant penalty or imprisonment.**

In general, these regulations require a few basic things that MUST be done before flying a UAV

- (1) The aircraft is flown strictly for recreational purposes (not commercially)
- (2) The aircraft is operated in accordance with or within the programming of a community-based organization's set of safety guidelines that are developed in coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration. [AMA Safety Handbook](#)
- (3) The aircraft is flown within the visual line of sight of the person operating the aircraft or a visual observer co-located and in direct communication with the operator.
- (4) The aircraft is operated in a manner that does not interfere with and gives way to any manned aircraft.
- (5) In Class B, Class C, or Class D airspace or within the lateral boundaries of the surface area of Class E airspace designated for an airport, the operator obtains prior authorization from the Administrator or designee before operating and complies with all airspace restrictions and prohibitions.
- (6) Except for circumstances when the Administrator establishes alternative altitude ceilings or as otherwise authorized in section (c), in Class G airspace, the aircraft is flown from the surface to not more than 400 feet aboveground level and complies with all airspace and flight restrictions and prohibitions established under this subtitle, such as special use airspace designations and temporary flight restrictions. (most airspace outside of 5 miles of an airport is Class G airspace)
- (7) The operator has passed an aeronautical knowledge and safety test described in subsection (g) and maintains proof of test passage to be made available to the Administrator or law enforcement upon request. (this can be kept on your phone) [FAA TRUST Exam](#)
- (8) The aircraft is registered and marked in accordance with chapter 441 of this title and proof of registration is made available to the Administrator or a designee of the Administrator or law enforcement upon request. [How to Register Your UAS](#)

## Remote ID Requirements - [Getting Started With Remote ID](#)

If you fly your UAS anywhere outside of an FAA Recognized Identification Area (FRIA), you must comply with the requirements of Remote ID. [The York County Flyers RC flying field is a FRIA](#)

## Use Common Sense and Fly Your UAS Respectfully and Safely

There are no specific laws in South Carolina or in York County that place additional restrictions on flying a UAS other than what is in US Code 44809 and a Community Based Organization Safety Guidelines, which is the AMA Safety Handbook.

There are no restrictions on flying a UAS over private property, although; ***be respectful!*** You, however, cannot fly or hover in an area “*where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy*”. In other words, you can’t be hovering your drone outside someone’s home window or over their enclosed hot tub area. Also, you cannot be harassing property owners for example, by flying low and “buzzing” them or their animals. Again, be respectful and fly safely and professionally at all times or you may find yourself in serious trouble and have your equipment confiscated.

### In Summary:

1. Register your UAS with the FAA and put your FAA number on the outside of your UAS
2. Take the TRUST exam and have proof of your completion with you
3. Don’t fly above 400 feet and always keep your UAS in sight
4. If not flying within a FRIA, you must follow the Remote ID rules
5. Always fly safely and be respectful. Don’t ruin it for other hobbyists.
6. Download and install the [B4UFLY](#) app on your phone and check for restrictions in your flying area.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about RC Flying, please contact us at the [Yorkcountyflyers.com](http://Yorkcountyflyers.com) We are glad to help!