



Operating a drone near a wildfire is hazardous

Wildland firefighting agencies and industry partners follow specific guidelines and standards when responding to and operating within a Fire Traffic Area or [FTA](#). The FTA is a cylinder of airspace coordinated by the on-scene aerial supervisor, who establishes and coordinates communication between all flight crews, ground firefighting resources and local dispatch personnel. There's no altitude or distance safe enough to operate a drone near a wildfire.

Airtankers, water scoopers, helicopters and aerial supervision platforms – air attack, lead plane, helicopter coordinators –all operate within the FTA from the ground level up to 3,500 feet AGL. Because altitudes, routes, circuits, and target areas can rapidly change throughout the fire mission and aircraft frequently enter and exit the FTA, there is no room for interference.

If you choose to fly, know that we can't!

Wildland fire response is a professional effort. A decision to fly a drone near a wildfire can cause timely delays in the emergency response, and decrease airspace safety, potentially resulting in unintentional harm (injury or death) for an emergency responder. Let the professionals do their job without interference. **Avoid flying drones near wildfires.**

For additional information visit the [FAA's Drone and Wildfire Digital Toolkit](#).

For additional Minnesota wildfire information visit www.mnics.org