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UAV Training Program Information

Introduced during the 2019/20 season, Unmanned Air Vehicle (UAV) operations are relatively new to Surf Lifesaving on the Northern Beaches of Sydney. They provide a valuable and increasing adjunct to traditional Patrol duties. UAV operations are primarily aerial surf safety patrols using DJI Phantom 4 drones to provide additional surveillance of the beach environment to enhance the safety of the public. This includes monitoring surf zones, identifying rips, swimmers in difficulty and looking for other hazards such as sharks.

We are currently looking for motivated individuals to join Surf Life Saving's UAV program on Sydney's Northern Beaches.

Future UAV pilots will need to demonstrate a mature, highly safety focussed and flexible attitude that underpins sound UAV handling skills in various challenging beach and ocean environments. Effective communication skills to support the SLS Patrol Captains, Lifeguards, Duty Officers and Surfcom is also required. Applicants must hold or be capable of holding a Civil Aviation Safety Authority, Aviation Reference Number (ARN).

If you would like to become a UAV Operator please review the following document that outlines the pre-requisites, the training program, your responsibilities and how to apply. Following submission of your expression of interest, all applications will be reviewed but as selection criteria is strict, and unfortunately, not all applicants will be successful.

For those who are successful, you will be contacted with more detailed information about the 4 day training course and the electronic links for the required pre-course reading.

When considering applying as a UAV pilot, please consider your current Surf Life Saving and family commitments with respect to your ability to meet the minimum 8 UAV patrol hours per month.

If you wish to apply to the program in SNB, we ask that you please use our online application form which can be found on our website.

<https://www.surflifesaving.net.au/lifesaving/support-operations/uav-operator/>

I trust you that will find the following information interesting and if you have any questions about becoming a UAV Operator, feel free to contact myself or Facilitator, Mr Greg Matthews.

Peter Probert
SNB UAV Advisor/Facilitator
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Program Outline

All aviation matters in Australia are regulated by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), including Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). The UAV program for Surf Lifesaving Sydney Northern Beaches (SNB) is conducted using the guidelines, policies and Standard Operating Procedures mandated by SLS (NSW) and approved by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

This training program will equip UAV Operators to safely operate drones for SLS(NSW) under the administrative control of their Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operator's Certificate (ReOC). The program will not provide UAV Operators with a Remote Aircraft Pilot Licence (RePL) as Surf Life Saving operates their UAVs under the Commercial, Excluded Category with UAV weight <2.0kg.

Before you can be approved as a UAV Operator for SLS SNB you will need to have successfully completed the following 4-day training program. Other SLS branches may have different training programs depending on their specific circumstances.

- Pre-Reading for the SLS UAV course sent via a link that provides access to regulatory and operational knowledge and information regarding the aircraft, including how and why they fly.
- An evening of face-to-face facilitated classroom briefing (2-3 hours) including confirmation of the Pre-Reading material.
- Training flight: Structured training in specific manoeuvres in a controlled environment such as a local park or field. A Proficient standard must be demonstrated before progressing to the beach flying.
- Beach flight 1: Practical introduction to UAV Operations. Each candidate under the guidance of our Facilitators, will operate in a beach environment, further refining skills including hazard identification, search patterns and take-off and landing practice. If the required standard is achieved during this training session, you will be cleared to progress to the final phase.
- Beach flight 2: Rostered UAV Operation during the season under the guidance of experienced UAV operator.

After completing the training program to a proficient standard, pilots will be rostered at their preferred beach for normal UAV patrols. To consolidate training your aim should be to conduct your early patrols frequently. These patrols are usually scheduled with one pilot however if needed additional resources can be made available.

Training Information

- (i) The link below will take you to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for UAVs from SLS New South Wales. The SOPs provide you with a substantial amount of information taking you to the most up to date policies and procedures. SNB use these state requirements as the foundation and if required, incorporate additional procedures that reflect our coastlines specific needs.

<https://www.surflifesaving.com.au/sites/site.test/files/Standard%20Operating%20Procedures%20Unmanned%20Aerial%20Vehicles%20%20-%20December%202019.pdf>

- (ii) Aviation Reference Number (ARN). You must hold or be capable of holding a CASA ARN. This is the link to apply for an ARN.

<https://www.casa.gov.au/licences-and-certification/individual-licensing/applying-aviation-reference-number-arn/individual-aviation-reference-number-application>

(iii) Drone Safety/No Fly Zones. Open Sky is the first CASA-verified drone safety app that can be downloaded and put on your mobile device. It provides customised location-based information about where you can and can't fly your drone in accordance with aviation legislation.

- [Download from Apple App store](#)
- [Download from Google Play store](#)
- [Open web-based version](#)

(iv) The CASA web-site contains additional information regarding UAV operation

<https://www.casa.gov.au/drones>

If you wish to apply to the program in SNB, we ask that you please use our online application form which can be found on our website.

<https://www.surflifesaving.net.au/lifesaving/support-operations/uav-operator/>