



## Rantoul National Aviation Center

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### **Flying Unmanned Aerial Systems At or Near the Rantoul Airport**

This short explanation of when and how one can fly an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) safely near the Rantoul Airport is designed to help the operator find the resources they need to operate in accordance with federal regulations and should not be considered all encompassing. The rules governing the flying of a UAS, also known as drones, are divided among two categories based on why the flight is taking place: recreational (personal enjoyment) or commercial (non-hobby). The information for this guide was sourced from the FAA's UAS website

[www.knowbeforeyoufly.org](http://www.knowbeforeyoufly.org)

The following basic rules should always apply:

- Contact the Rantoul Airport before flying within 5 miles of it
- Remain clear of airport and aircraft flight paths
- Always keep the unmanned aircraft within sight and at an altitude that would not make it a hazard to manned aircraft
- Do not operate in a reckless manner

#### Recreational or Hobby Flight

To fall under this category the operator must meet the basic requirements of (1) the aircraft must weigh less than 55 lbs and (2) the flight is only for personal enjoyment.

The rules governing these operations include:

- Fly no higher than 400 feet and remain below any surrounding obstacles when possible.
- Keep your UAS in eyesight at all times, and use an observer to assist if needed.
- Remain well clear of and do not interfere with manned aircraft operations, and you must see and avoid other aircraft and obstacles at all times.
- Do not intentionally fly over unprotected persons or moving vehicles, and remain at least 25 feet away from individuals and vulnerable property.
- Contact the airport or control tower before flying within five miles of an airport.
- Do not fly in adverse weather conditions such as in high winds or reduced visibility.
- Do not fly under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Ensure the operating environment is safe and that the operator is competent and proficient in the operation of the UAS.
- Do not fly near or over sensitive infrastructure or property such as power stations, water treatment facilities, correctional facilities, heavily traveled roadways, government facilities, etc.
- Check and follow all local laws and ordinances before flying over private property.
- Do not conduct surveillance or photograph persons in areas where there is an expectation of privacy without the individual's permission.
- Follow all FAA regulations governing these flights listed at [www.knowbeforeyoufly.org](http://www.knowbeforeyoufly.org)

## Commercial Use

According to the current rules “the FAA currently authorizes the use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for commercial or business purposes on a case-by-case basis. You may not fly your UAS for commercial purpose without the express permission from the FAA. You should check with the FAA for further determination as to what constitutes a commercial or business use of small UAS.” One can apply for permission for commercial flights from the FAA through their website [https://www.faa.gov/uas/legislative\\_programs/section\\_333/](https://www.faa.gov/uas/legislative_programs/section_333/)

Examples of commercial use:

- Newspaper using a UAS to take photos
- Photography which will then be sold, for example wedding photography
- Aerial imagery of a farmers field
- Using UAS to provide contract services, such as industrial equipment or factory inspection
- Using UAS to provide a professional services, such as security or telecommunications

## Reporting a Flight and Other Questions

Should you want to report flying activity within 5 miles of the Rantoul Airport, please either email or telephone the following information at least 48 hours in advance:

1. Name, address, and contact information for operator
2. Type of aircraft, color, and distinguishing characteristics
3. Proposed launch and recovery location
4. Flight path and altitude for operation
5. Purpose of flight

Note: the Rantoul Airport will not be approving model aircraft or UAS flights at the airport without a formal memorandum signed by the airport and the operator agreeing to the required operating procedures.

Please be aware the Rantoul Airport cannot give permission to operators to conduct commercial flights with UAS aircraft; this authority remains solely with the FAA. The Village of Rantoul will be requesting to see a copy of an approved Certificate of Authorization prior to giving permission to any commercial operator wishing to fly in Rantoul. Please be aware of current regulations prior to making any flight with a UAS that may be perceived to be a commercial use.

Please consult the FAA UAS Frequently Asked Questions website for additional information <https://www.faa.gov/uas/faq/>. This website discusses whether there is a difference between rules for model aircraft and UAS, and many other topics that will assist current and future operators be knowledgeable and safe.

Feel free to contact the Rantoul Airport should you have any questions that are not addressed by the FAA. Thank you for operating your unmanned aircraft in a safe and responsible manner.