



Texas Department of Insurance

State Fire Marshal's Office

Report on the Use of Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2020

Background

Government Code 423.008 requires each state law enforcement agency that uses or operates an unmanned aircraft to submit a written report to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and each member of the Legislature between January 1 and January 15 of odd-numbered years.

The Texas State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) is authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration to operate unmanned aircrafts and conducted flights during the reporting period. The SFMO takes unmanned aircraft to help with the investigation of fires, explosions, and natural disasters. It also uses drones in building inspections and for training and education purposes.

In accordance with Government Code 423.008, this report includes:

- Number of times the unmanned aircraft was used, organized by date, time, location, and the types of incidents and types of justification for the use.
- Number of criminal investigations aided using the unmanned aircraft and a description of how the unmanned aircraft aided each investigation.
- Number of times the unmanned aircraft was used for a law enforcement operation other than a criminal investigation, the dates and locations of those operations, and a description of how the unmanned aircraft aided each operation.
- Type of information collected on an individual, residence, property, or area that was not the subject of a law enforcement operation and the frequency of the collection of this information.
- Total cost of acquiring, maintaining, repairing, and operating or otherwise using each unmanned aircraft for the preceding 24 months.

SFMO retains the report for public viewing at its headquarters located at 7915 Cameron Road, Austin, Texas 78701. The report is also on the Texas Department of Insurance's website at www.tdi.texas.gov/fire/.

The total cost to SFMO of acquiring, maintaining, repairing, operating, or otherwise using each unmanned aircraft for the preceding 24 months was \$30,091. The costs incurred were:

- \$29,896 for the initial purchase.
- \$154 for seven landing pads.
- \$41 for eight lens cleaning kits.

Number of times unmanned aircraft were used

These numbers are for law enforcement operations involving criminal investigations. SFMO doesn't use them for any other law enforcement operations.

2019: Unmanned aircraft used 17 times

Date	Location	Incident type	Description
5/25/2019	1900 Gage Road, Cleburne	Training	Training flight
5/27/2019	1900 Gage Road, Cleburne	Training	Training flight
6/1/2019	201 W. Westhill Dr., Cleburne	Training	Training flight
6/3/2019	201 W. Westhill Dr., Cleburne	Training	Training flight
6/6/2019	1663 W. Henderson St. Cleburne	Training	Training flight
6/19/2019	1551 Old Moody Road, Eddy	Commercial fire	Documentation of scene
7/1/2019	596 Beaver Lake Road, Waco	Residential fire	Documentation of scene
5/27/2019	1900 Gage Road, Cleburne	Training	Training flight
7/29/2019	144 County Road 3000, Lott	Commercial fire	Documentation of scene
7/30/2019	144 County Road 3000, Lott	Commercial fire	Documentation of scene
10/29/2019	1010 East Texas Avenue, Mart	Residential fire	Documentation of scene
11/5/2019	201 W. Westhill Dr., Cleburne	Training	Training flight
11/9/2019	201 W. Westhill Dr., Cleburne	Training	Training flight
11/22/2019	3336 County Rd 312, Cleburne	Training	Training flight
12/12/2019	1512 East Loop 304, Crockett	Commercial fire	Documentation of scene
12/17/2019	1701 Hal Avenue, Cleburne	Commercial fire	Documentation of scene
12/18/2019	104 Shady Oak Street, Keene	Residential fire	Documentation of scene
12/23/2019	3245 FM 2135 No. 4, Cleburne	Barricaded subject related to SFMO arrest for manufacture/possession of explosive device	SWAT support/officer safety

Note: SFMO didn't have working aircraft available from January 1, 2019, to May 2019.

2020: Unmanned aircraft used 46 times

Date	Location	Incident type	Description
1/6/2020	10201 FM 197, Arthur City	Residential explosion	Documentation of scene
1/8/2020	2719 County Road 397, Palestine	Fatality fire	Documentation of scene
1/10/2020	19178 FM Road 56, Kopperl	Commercial Fire	Documentation of scene
5/20/2020	228 North Huron Street, Cleburne	Warrant service related to SFMO arson case and subsequent warrant for theft	SWAT support/officer safety
7/10/2020	1900 Gage Road, Cleburne	Training	Training flight
1/6/2020	10201 FM 197, Arthur City	Residential explosion	Documentation of scene
1/8/2020	2719 County Road 397, Palestine	Fatality fire	Documentation of scene
7/28/2020	201 W. Westhill Dr., Cleburne	Training	Training Flight
8/25/2020	867 Old Mexia Road, Waco	Fatality fire	Documentation of scene
9/3/2020	1663 W. Henderson St., Cleburne	Aggravated assault	Article search on roof/officer safety
9/5/2020	1800 Bent Tree Loop, Round Rock	Training	Training flight
9/8/2020	708 Grover Street, Ellinger	Residential explosion	Documentation of scene
9/11/2020	4100 FM 1105, Walburg	Commercial fire	Documentation of scene
9/14/2020	1900 Gage Road, Cleburne	Training	Training flight
9/14/2020	2100 Kimbrook Dr, Round Rock	Training	Training flight
9/15/2020	2100 Kimbrook Dr, Round Rock	Training	Training flight
9/16/2020	1900 Gage Road, Cleburne	Training	Training flight
9/16/2020	22017, Columbus, Texas	Training	Training flight
9/24/2020	100 CR 138, Wharton	Training	Training flight
9/26/2020	1800 Bent Tree Loop, Round Rock	Training	Training flight
9/28/2020	5031 FM 1726, Goliad	Commercial fire	Documentation of scene
10/2/2020	1800 Bent Tree Loop, Round Rock	Training	Training flight
10/3/2020	1800 Ridgemar Drive, Cleburne	Inmate escape	Search operations of an escaped felon.
10/8/2020	375 Wilhelm Rd, Fredericksburg	Training	Training flight
10/8/2020	2200 Rio Brisas Cove, Round Rock	Training	Training flight
10/16/2020	1800 Bent Tree Loop, Round Rock	Training	Training flight
10/30/2020	1800 Bent Tree Loop, Round Rock	Training	Training flight
11/5/2020	100 CR 138, Wharton	Training	Training flight
11/16/2020	1106 Kossa Kountry Ln, Cat Spring	Commercial fire	Documentation of scene
11/20/2020	375 Wilhelm Rd, Fredericksburg	Training	Training flight
11/21/2020	375 Wilhelm Rd, Fredericksburg	Training	Training flight
11/23/2020	375 Wilhelm Rd, Fredericksburg	Training	Training flight
11/24/2020	375 Wilhelm Rd, Fredericksburg	Training	Training flight
12/1/2020	1160 Austin Street, Vidor	Residential fire	Documentation of scene
12/7/2020	1340 CR 451, Waelder	Residential fire	Documentation of scene
12/8/2020	4024 Flax Ave, El Campo	Residential fire	Documentation of scene

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Date	Location	Incident type	Description
12/10/2020	10451 East FM 243, Bertram	Church fire	Documentation of scene
12/11/2020	102 West 1st Street, Anna	Commercial fire	Documentation of scene
12/14/2020	Toledo Bend Reservoir, Sabine Co.	Houseboat fire	Documentation of scene
12/16/2020	160 County Road 404, Alvarado	Training	Training Flight
12/16/2020	160 County Road 404, Alvarado	Training	Training Flight
12/18/2020	Toledo Bend Reservoir, Sabine Co.	Houseboat fire	Documentation of scene
12/22/2020	1513 Ranch Road 1431, Kingsland	Residential fire	Documentation of scene
12/22/2020	1513 Ranch Road 1431, Kingsland	Residential fire	Documentation of scene
12/29/2020	1337 Fifth St., Hempstead	Residential fire	Documentation of scene
12/29/2020	30° 32' 32.2" N 97° 39' 58.3" W Roundrock	Training	Training Flight