

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

# PRIVACY GUIDELINES FOR DRONE OPERATORS

## RECREATIONAL DRONE OPERATORS

- Before you fly your drone, understand the rules you must follow.
- Keep in mind the following privacy guidelines when operating recreational drones:



### BE RESPONSIBLE

You're in charge of any personal information your drone collects. Personal information includes: a person's name, a photo of their face, or their license plate.



### STORE INFORMATION SECURELY

If you save recordings that contain personal information, take steps so only you can access the information.



### LIMIT THE DATA YOU COLLECT

Don't collect personal information you don't need. Make sure any personal information you capture without consent can't be identified. For example, blur faces or license plates.



### GET PERMISSION

If you'll likely capture personal information on your flight, do your best to inform the people you film and get their permission.



### BE OPEN ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING

If someone complains that your drone use is affecting their privacy, make sure to respond with respect and courtesy.

Violating some parts of a person's privacy could result in criminal charges relating to:

- voyeurism
- mischief
- creating a nuisance
- violations of provincial or municipal laws

## COMMERCIAL DRONE OPERATORS



Businesses in Canada must follow the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* (PIPEDA) when using drones.

Under PIPEDA, you must get consent to collect, use and share personal information with others. In order for consent to be valid, people must understand what they are agreeing to.

Your business must handle people's personal information professionally and with respect. This includes explaining why you need to collect personal information and giving people access to their personal information.

You're responsible for protecting and handling personal information throughout your business.



### WHO DOESN'T NEED TO FOLLOW PIPEDA?

PIPEDA doesn't apply if your organization operates only within Alberta, British Columbia, or Quebec; however, other provincial privacy laws still apply. PIPEDA also doesn't apply if you're collecting, using, or sharing personal information for:

- journalism
- art
- books
- academic research
- not-for-profit organizations or charities

[Canada.ca/drone-safety](https://Canada.ca/drone-safety)



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

# DRONES LESS THAN 250 G

DRONES THAT WEIGH **LESS THAN 250 GRAMS** ARE ALSO KNOWN AS **MICRODRONES**.

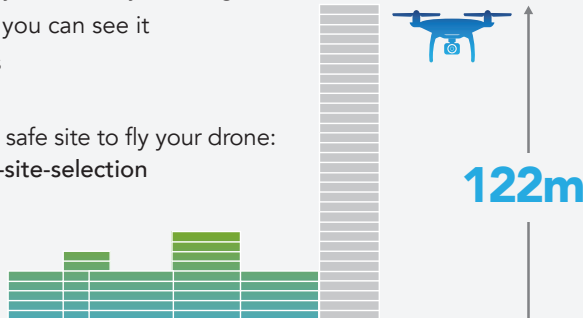
IF YOU FLY A **MICRODRONE**, YOU **MUST**:

- Fly safely—don't put people or other aircraft in danger
- Avoid emergency sites and restricted airspace (forest fires, first responder perimeters)
- Follow provincial, territorial or municipal rules that may also **apply**, including rules about privacy and trespassing: [canada.ca/safe-legal-drones](https://canada.ca/safe-legal-drones)



YOU **SHOULD**:

- Keep your drone below 122 metres (400 feet) in the air—approximately a 30-storey building
- Keep your drone where you can see it
- Avoid advertised events
- Avoid airports
  - > Use [this map](https://nrc.canada.ca/en/uav-site-selection) to find a safe site to fly your drone: [nrc.canada.ca/en/uav-site-selection](https://nrc.canada.ca/en/uav-site-selection)



YOU **DON'T** NEED TO:

- Register your drone
- Get a drone pilot certificate



## MAXIMUM TAKE-OFF WEIGHT

If the take-off weight of your drone is 250 g or more, it isn't a microdrone. You must register it and get a drone pilot certificate.

The maximum take-off weight of your drone includes batteries or anything you attach to it, like:

- communications equipment
- sensors
- cameras
- lights



IF YOU BREAK THE RULES, YOU COULD BE FINED **\$1,000 (FOR AN INDIVIDUAL)** OR **\$5,000 (FOR A CORPORATION)**

[Canada.ca/drone-safety](https://Canada.ca/drone-safety)



Transport  
Canada

Transports  
Canada

Canada



**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!**

# WHERE CAN YOU FLY YOUR DRONE?

250 g - 25 kg

REGISTER YOUR DRONE AND  
GET YOUR BASIC OR ADVANCED  
DRONE PILOT CERTIFICATE AT:  
[Canada.ca/drone-safety](https://Canada.ca/drone-safety)

Use this map to find a safe  
site to fly your drone:  
[https://nrc.canada.ca/en/  
drone-tool/](https://nrc.canada.ca/en/drone-tool/)

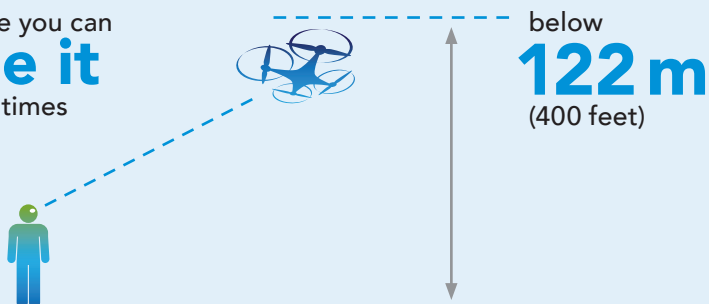


Always respect the  
privacy of others  
while flying.



## FLY YOUR DRONE:

where you can  
**see it**  
at all times



**1.9 km**  
from heliports

**5.6 km**  
from airports and outside  
controlled airspace

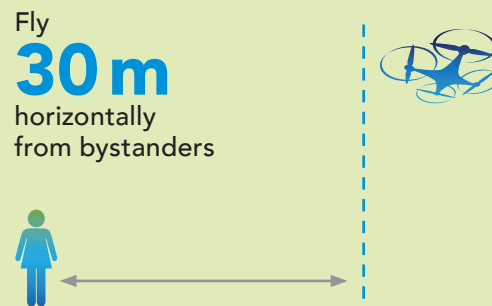


**away** from **emergency sites** and  
**advertised events** (concerts, parades)



## BASIC OPERATIONS

Fly  
**30 m**  
horizontally  
from bystanders



## ADVANCED OPERATIONS

► For **eligible drones**:

Get permission from NAV CANADA  
to fly in controlled airspace:  
[navcanada.ca/rpas](https://navcanada.ca/rpas)



Fly near or over bystanders



[Canada.ca/drone-safety](https://Canada.ca/drone-safety)



Transport  
Canada

Transports  
Canada

Canada



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

# FOREST FIRES AND DRONES

THE AIRSPACE AROUND AND OVER A FOREST FIRE IS CLOSED TO ALL AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING DRONES, EXCEPT THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN FIGHTING FIRES.



While some emergency response teams use drones to fight forest fires, flying a drone over or near a forest fire without permission increases the risk that a firefighting aircraft will collide with the drone. If a drone is spotted in the area, emergency response teams need to ground their operations, which puts lives at risk.



You could face serious penalties, including fines and/or jail time, if you break the rules.



Canadian law requires all drone pilots to fly according to the *Canadian Aviation Regulations*, which state that only someone with permission can fly a drone over a forest fire, or within 9.3 kilometres (5 NM) of a forest fire.



Before flying a drone in the summer months, make sure there are no smoke plumes or active forest fires nearby. Check local sources of information, such as the [fire management agency website](#) (English only) for your region, and [NAV Drone](#), which provides real-time access to Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs) and restricted airspace information.

Canada.ca/drone-safety

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Transport, 2021.

Cat. No. T52-4/115-2021E-PDF  
ISBN 978-0-660-41126-2



Transport  
Canada





Transports  
Canada

Canada

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

# FIND YOUR DRONE CATEGORY

YOU NEED A **PILOT CERTIFICATE – BASIC OPERATIONS** TO:

 <p>Fly <b>+30 m</b> from bystanders</p> 	<p>Fly in uncontrolled airspace (where no air traffic control is provided)</p>  
--	--

YOU NEED A **PILOT CERTIFICATE – ADVANCED OPERATIONS** TO:

 <p>Fly less than <b>30 m</b> from or <b>over</b> bystanders</p> 	<p>Fly in controlled airspace with air traffic control approval <a href="http://navcanada.ca/rpas">navcanada.ca/rpas</a></p>  
---	---

YOU NEED A **SPECIAL FLIGHT OPERATIONS CERTIFICATE** TO FLY:

<p>At an advertised event</p>  	<p>A drone over 25 kg</p>  <p><b>25kg+</b></p>	<p>Above 122 metres (400 feet)</p> <p><b>122m+</b> (approximately a 30-storey building)</p>  
--	---	---

[Canada.ca/drone-safety](http://Canada.ca/drone-safety)



Transport  
Canada

Transports  
Canada

Canada

**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!**

# HOW TO MARK YOUR DRONE:

**REGISTER** your drone through the Drone Management Portal.

**MARK** your drone with its registration number.

The registration number must be clearly visible on the drone.



YOU CAN USE

permanent marker

permanent label

engraving

C-1827459426

C-1827459426

C-1827459426

[Canada.ca/drone-safety](https://Canada.ca/drone-safety)



Transport  
Canada

Transports  
Canada

Canada

