



## POSITION PAPER

October 6, 2022

TO: FIRESCOPE Board of Directors  
23300 Castle Street  
Riverside, CA 92518-2200

FROM: Operations Team, Task Force, & UAS Subcommittee

### **SUBJECT: Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Mission Request Checklist & UAS Mission Request Checklist Instructions**

*Approval: This White Paper and related Documents were approved by the Board of Directors on October 6, 2022*

### **SUMMARY**

In conjunction with UAS use for emergency responders, many commercial operators supporting all-hazard incidents and disaster relief have adopted UAS into their fleet, supporting infrastructure repair and other disaster relief efforts. These commercial operators include insurance companies, powerline companies, transportation agencies, and volunteer fire departments. There are many instances when damage assessments, infrastructure repair, and other disaster relief efforts may need to coincide within the jurisdictional agency's all-hazard incident response. The overall change in our operating climate has resulted in a surge of UAS requests filtering to incident leadership.

In anticipation of increased UAS usage on incidents, the FIRESCOPE UAS Subcommittee has created a UAS Mission Request Checklist and UAS Mission Request Checklist Instructions to aid incident leadership seeking the safe integration of UAS into their incident. The checklist collects the pertinent information required to optimize the incident airspace and coordinate and deconflict between manned and unmanned assets while maintaining Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) compliance. It also ensures that all appropriate information is addressed and documented before the commencement of a UAS mission.

The proposed checklist does not supersede FAA requirements; however, its design complements existing regulations. For instance, the checklist's design aligns with the August 2022 [Interagency Aviation Information Bulletin 22-06](#) concerning Special Government Interest (SGI) waivers required for all UAS Operations in a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR).



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### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The FIRESCOPE UAS Subcommittee recommends the utilization of the UAS Mission Request Checklist (ICS Form 267) when there is a request from an incident or entity for a UAS mission. The requesting entity and the accepting pilot in command should be involved in completing the checklist and in agreement with the details of the UAS mission. Denial of the request may result when the requesting entity does not meet FAA compliance (e.g., does not have an approved SGI for TFR). The UAS subcommittee will annually review the checklist as part of the subcommittee's program of work.

### **PROCEDURE**

Upon the determination to request a UAS mission, the requesting entity and the UAS Pilot in Command (PIC) will complete the UAS Mission Request Checklist (ICS Form 267) and submit it to the appropriate approving office (e.g., Incident Commander, Air Operations, etc.). Depending on the information provided, the approving official can approve, deny, or approve with modification. No UAS flights shall commence without FAA compliance and incident approval.

### **CONCLUSION**

The UAS Subcommittee has created the UAS Mission Request Checklist and UAS Mission Request Checklist Instructions to assist in preparing for a UAS mission. The UAS Subcommittee recommends utilizing the UAS Mission Request Checklist for all UAS mission requests. This checklist intends to address all pertinent and essential components of initiating a UAS mission and serves as an agreement between the requesting entity and the UAS pilot in command (PIC). Under certain circumstances, such as an immediate threat to life or property, time may not allow checklist completion. Under those conditions, the UAS mission can proceed without completing this checklist with the Incident Commander's verbal approval. In that circumstance, the agency should complete the checklist within 48 hours of the verbal consent.

**Board of Directors Approved: October 6, 2022**