



# Bethel Regional Airport

Airport Authority

EFFECTIVE: 05/06/2015

Subject: POLICY REGARDING OPERATIONS OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) WITHIN PROXIMITY TO THE AIRPORT

1. PURPOSE: This document establishes policy of the Bethel Airport Authority and outlines the procedures required of operators intending on launching, flying or operating unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) within 5 miles of the Bethel Regional Airport.
  
2. BACKGROUND: Modelers, generally, are concerned about safety and do exercise good judgement when flying unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). However, UAS can at times pose a hazard to full-scale aircraft in flight and to persons and property on the surface. With the increase interest in the use of UAS in the United States for hobby and recreational purposes, and in particular in Bethel, Maine, and with UAS safety and security-related incidents near public-use airports being on the rise, the Airport Authority has implemented this policy and procedure in accordance with safety guidelines established by the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) and rules and standards established by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) outlined in Advisory Circular AC 91-57 and Title 14 USC Section 336 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012.
  
3. DEFINITIONS:
  - a. Operators mean the person(s) at the controls of any unmanned aircraft system and includes any supervisor, sponsor, instructor or group leader in charge of any group flying UAS.
  
  - b. Unmanned aircraft systems. The term “unmanned aircraft systems”, (UAS) as defined by the FAA, means any model or full-scale aircraft that are used or intended to be used for flight in the air with no onboard pilot. For the purpose of this policy, UAS include toys such as model aircraft, drones, and model rockets.
  
4. OPERATING STANDARDS:
  - a. Operators are strongly encouraged to review and comply with the National Model Aircraft Safety Code available online from the Academy of Model

Aeronautics as well as all FAA regulations/guidelines and state or federal statutes.

- b. When operating within 5 nautical miles of the Bethel Regional Airport, operators shall provide notice to the Airport Coordinator no less than 24 hours prior to the intended launch of a UAS and provide the following information:
    - i. The date(s) and time(s) of the intended UAS operation;
    - ii. The location(s) of the intended UAS launch site and the geographic limits of the intended flight operation;
    - iii. The name, email address and contact phone number of the operator.
  - c. Operators are strongly encouraged to make such notice online via the airport's website ([www.bethelregionalairport.com](http://www.bethelregionalairport.com)). If the online notification system is unavailable, operators may alternatively provide notice through the Airport's Telephone Information Line at (207) 512-5552.
  - d. Operators of UAS shall give right of way to, and avoid flying in the proximity of, full-scale aircraft. Operators should use observers to help if possible.
  - e. Nothing in this Policy shall permit operators of UAS to interfere with the normal operations of the Airport or of full-scale aircraft operating within proximity to the Bethel Regional Airport.
5. AIRPORT RESPONSIBILITY: Upon receipt of proper notification of intended UAS launch within 5 nautical miles from the Bethel Regional Airport, the Airport Coordinator or their designee shall issue the appropriate Notice To Airmen (NOTAM) in accordance with current FAA guidelines and regulations to ensure safety to aviators.