



Philadelphia Police Department Drone Use

The Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) has two drones that enhance the safety of police operations. Drones are primarily used by SWAT to check rooftops perimeters, and alleyways of a property before serving high-risk warrants. Drones are also used to enhance search and rescue missions by PPD's Marine Unit.

PPD directives permit the operation drones in compliance with federal and state regulations.

PPD's Drones Provide a Real-Time Live Feed

PPD's drones currently do not have the ability to record footage and **do not have facial recognition software.**

PPD Does Not Currently Use Drones for Surveillance

The department's drones have a limited battery life that does not make them suitable for surveillance operations.

Drone Flights Require Two PPD Members

All drone flights require two PPD members on scene: One operator and one observer watching for obstacles in the air or on the ground.

CPOC will Monitor any Expansion of Drone Use by PPD

Should PPD expand the use drones in their operations, CPOC will monitor and publicly report on progress and implementation.

*All information provided by the Philadelphia Police Department.

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