



Memorandum No. 16-007

Date: 20 January 2016

TO: NWCG Executive Board Members

FROM: John Glenn, Chair, NWCG Executive Board

SUBJECT: Unmanned Aircraft Incursion Protocol for Wildland Firefighters

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John A. Glenn", is positioned to the right of the "FROM:" line.

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance to on-scene wildland fire personnel to assist in mitigating the threat of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) over an incident. Please distribute this memorandum and its attachment through your agency channels in preparation for the 2016 fire season.

The use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), also known as drones, has increased dramatically across the United States over the last few years. The simplicity of operating these systems combined with the high quality imagery they can provide has led to some operators flying them in close proximity to incidents. The attached protocol is intended to be a decision support tool for incident personnel when a UAS is spotted in the vicinity of an incident. All incursions of UAS on fires should be reported via the SAFECOM system (<https://www.safecom.gov>).

The *UAS Incursion Protocol for Wildland Firefighters* was developed by the Interagency Fire Unmanned Aircraft Systems Subcommittee (UASSC) under the National Interagency Aviation Committee. If you have any questions regarding this document or feedback on suggested improvements to the protocol, please contact Brad Koeckeritz at (208) 433-5091 or Bradley.Koeckeritz@ios.doi.gov.

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