



City of Kingsburg

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BUILDING INFORMATION BULLETIN 2023-004

Effective Date: 7/6/2023
To: General and Trade Contractors, Associations & Citizens of Kingsburg
Subject: City of Kingsburg Unmanned Aircraft System Inspection Program
From: AJ O'Connell, MCP, CBO, CCEA – Building Official
Policy:

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 1 in 5 workplace deaths in the United States occurred in the construction industry. Of these deaths, more than a third involved falls, slips, and trips from elevated surfaces. Data from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration shows that falls from elevated surfaces cost businesses in construction an average between \$60,000 and \$100,000 in total losses, such as insurance payouts, medical costs, indemnity, etc. This data shows that working in elevated areas within construction is hazardous and that risks need to be mitigated to prevent accidents.

The City of Kingsburg is dedicated to keeping our employees that work with and alongside the construction industry safe when on job sites across the city. The City of Kingsburg is committed to innovative ways to keep our staff on the ground while still being able to perform the necessary duties of keeping the community safe. An Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Inspection Program is an example of this commitment. This program will help the City's Building Division continue to meet the needs of the City of Kingsburg and keep our Building Inspectors safely on the ground.

This bulletin is intended to educate the public as to the parameters and limitations of the proper use of UAS devices by Building Division staff.

The UAS Inspection Program was approved by the City of Kingsburg Mayor and City Council at the June 21, 2023 regular meeting.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), a UAS is an aircraft that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft itself. Commonly referred to as "Drones", this tool is quickly being used by a variety of industries across the United States - such as agriculture, public safety, and construction - for an ever-increasing array of uses and purposes. The FAA estimates that there are more than 1.5 million active drones being used within the United States as of 2021.

Due to emerging design techniques in construction coupled with the rising costs of providing safe and suitable access for Inspectors to properly inspect construction, the use of Drones will provide a higher level of safety during the code compliance process, while providing an incredible tool to further enhance

building code compliance inspections. It is the intention of the City of Kingsburg Building Division that Drone technology will be used on a reasonably selective basis when the Inspector believes that an inspection using traditional methods may be hazardous.

The City of Kingsburg Building Division and its staff are sensitive to the public's right to privacy. It is for this reason the Building Division has developed this program with the residents' safety and privacy in mind. Drones will only be used by the Building Division for the purposes identified in this bulletin.

Drones used by the City of Kingsburg Building Division will not be used for any Code Enforcement or surveillance purposes.

Initially, the Drones will be used only for the following inspections:

- Roof-mounted photovoltaic (PV) system,
- Reroof,
- Structural Roof assemblies,
- Structural Brace Walls at or above two stories above grade,
- Exterior wall façade and covering assemblies at or above two stories above grade,
- Unoccupied "U" occupancy structures at or above two stories above grade,
- Wall-mounted and pylon signage,
- Disaster assessment and mitigation,
- Mutual aid support for another agency when the underlying mission meets the uses outlined in the program,
- Emergency responses, and,
- Training purposes.

The UAS Inspection Program will be included in the terms and conditions of any permit application that requires the above-identified inspections. The permit application will also include an Opt Out provision should the applicant refuse to allow the Building Division to use the UAS Inspection Program for the permit inspections. On the day of the requested inspection, the Inspector operating the Drone will notify the property owner and/or tenant of the Drone flight needed for the inspection.

If a permittee elects to opt out of the UAS Inspection Program, any safety measures required by City of Kingsburg Building Division staff to perform the inspection must be made available and provided by the permittee at the permittee's sole cost and expense.

A LADDER MUST STILL BE PROVIDED AND SET UP FOR THE REQUIRED INSPECTIONS PER INFORMATION BULLETIN 2023-003 REGARDLESS OF IF A DRONE IS TO BE USED OR NOT.

The City of Kingsburg Building Division will conduct the UAS Inspection Program as follows:

- All Building Division Drone operators must hold a FAA Remote Pilot, Part 107 Certification. This Certification demonstrates that the operator understands the regulations, operating requirements, and procedures for safely flying drones. Obtaining the Certification requires passing an initial aeronautical knowledge exam – "Unmanned Aircraft General – Small (UAG)" – and recurrent training and testing every 24 calendar months.
- All flights will be flown in compliance with FAA regulations.
- When performing an inspection, the Drone will not be recording video. Inspectors will only take

still photographs of the portion of the building applicable to the scope of work on the permit and when a correction is needed. The images from the Drone will be transmitted wirelessly to the operator's position during the on-site inspection for the purposes of the visual inspection. Any photos will be retained per the City's Record Retention Schedule.

- Building Division inspection flights will be tracked and logged to ensure transparency.
- All Drones used in the City of Kingsburg UAS Inspection Program will be equipped with Remote ID. This "digital license plate" technology will broadcast the Drone's latitude, longitude, altitude, velocity, and serial number to any relevant parties. Remote ID will also broadcast the Drone operator's latitude, longitude, and altitude. More information on Remote ID can be found at this website: https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/remote_id

Any privacy or security complaints or concerns by a permittee shall be directed to the Inspector on-site during the inspection or directly to the City of Kingsburg Building Division.

A full copy of the City of Kingsburg UAS Inspection Program Policies and Procedures is available at the City of Kingsburg Building Division front counter during regular business hours or can be requested by contacting buildingplanning@cityofkingsburg-ca.gov.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact the City of Kingsburg Building Division at (559)897-5328 or buildingplanning@cityofkingsburg-ca.gov.