

2017 uas for electric utilities pmaconference

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Understanding Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS): Classes, Categories, and Utility Applications**

What is a UAS?

An unmanned aircraft system (UAS), also known as a drone, is an aircraft operated without a human pilot onboard. UASs are controlled remotely, either manually by a ground-based operator or autonomously by onboard computer systems.

Categories of UAS

UASs are classified into four categories based on their maximum takeoff weight (MTOW):

- **Category 1:** 0.55 pounds or less
- **Category 2:** 0.56 to 55 pounds
- **Category 3:** 56 to 550 pounds
- **Category 4:** Over 550 pounds

Classes of UAS

Within each category, UASs are further classified into classes based on their intended use and performance:

- **Class 1 UAS:** Small, low-risk UAS operated within line of sight (LOS) and at altitudes below 400 feet.
- **Class 2:** Medium-sized UAS that can operate beyond LOS and up to 500 feet.

- **Class 3:** Large UAS capable of long-range operations and higher altitudes, typically used by government or commercial entities.

Utility Drones

Utility drones are UASs designed for specific applications in industries such as infrastructure inspection, energy, and agriculture. These drones often have advanced features such as thermal imaging, high-resolution cameras, and data acquisition capabilities.

UAS in Electric Utilities

Drones are increasingly used by electric utilities for tasks such as:

- Line inspection and maintenance
- Damage assessment
- Tree trimming and vegetation management
- Emergency response
- Security and surveillance

Are Drones and UAS the Same?

Yes, drones and UASs are interchangeable terms. Both refer to aircraft that are operated without a human pilot onboard.

What is a Class 3 UAS?

A Class 3 UAS is a large and powerful drone that requires a remote pilot certificate to operate. It can fly beyond LOS, reach higher altitudes, and carry heavier payloads than Class 1 or 2 UASs.

What is a Class 2 UAS?

A Class 2 UAS is a medium-sized drone that can operate beyond LOS but at lower altitudes than Class 3 UASs. It requires a Remote Pilot Certificate - Small UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) to operate.

What is a Category 2 Drone?

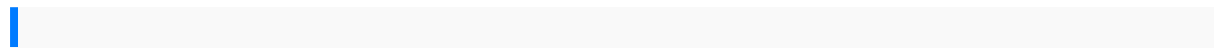
A Category 2 drone is a drone that weighs between 0.56 and 55 pounds. It includes Class 2 UASs and other drones in the same weight range.

State That Does Not Allow Drones

North Dakota is the only state in the United States that does not allow drones to be operated without a license or permit.

Can You Fly a Drone Around Power Lines?

Operating drones near power lines is generally not permitted due to safety concerns and the potential for interference with electrical equipment.



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