

A message from the City of Box Elder and the U.S. Air Force regarding drone operations in and around the City and the Base:

Operating drones for recreation can be a challenging, rewarding and fun past time for a wide range of people including kids, adults, experienced operators and beginners but drones can pose a very real danger if not operated safely. Both Federal Aviation Administration rules as well as South Dakota State Law provide some guidelines for safe operation of drones in populated areas. We would like to share some of those with you so you can enjoy flying drones safely:

- A drone may not be operated within 5 miles of an airport without prior notice to the airport and air traffic control.
- A drone may not interfere with and must give way to manned aircraft.
- A drone must be kept in visual line of sight of the operator.
- Drones may not weigh over 55 pounds.
- Drones must follow community-based safety guidelines.
- A drone cannot be flown higher than 400 feet above ground level.
- A drone can only be flown during the day.
- A drone cannot fly over people, and this includes stadiums and sporting events.
- A drone cannot be flown near emergency response efforts such as fires and law enforcement calls.
- A drone operator can not fly while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.
- A drone operator must understand airspace restrictions and requirements
- A drone may not be flown over a prison, jail, correctional facility, juvenile detention facility or a military facility without authorized by the facility administrator.

For more information about flying drones safely and legally, please visit:

http://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&Statute=50 and <https://www.faa.gov/uas/>