

Lee County Mosquito Control District Unmanned Aircraft Systems Privacy Policy

I. Introductory Statement

The benefits of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (“UAS”)¹ to the Lee County Mosquito Control District (the “District”) have the potential to be substantial. Technology has moved forward rapidly, and what not long ago was considered a toy now represents a powerful tool that can provide enormous benefits in terms of safety and efficiency. UAS integration will have a positive impact on mosquito control in Lee County.

However, the very characteristics that make UAS so promising for the District’s uses – including their small size, maneuverability and capacity to carry various kinds of recording or sensory devices – can raise privacy concerns. In order to ensure that UAS and the exciting possibilities that come with them live up to their full potential, the District is committed to using this technology in a responsible, ethical, and respectful way. As a result, the District has adopted this Privacy Policy to promote privacy, transparency, and accountability to the citizens of Lee County.

II. Scope of Use

The District shall only use UAS in a manner consistent with and relevant to the abatement and suppression of arthropods within Lee County for the maintenance and betterment of the comfort, health, and welfare of the people of Lee County.² Under no circumstances may UAS be used for personal purposes. The District is prohibited from using UAS to collect information on individuals or private property, except for purposes of carrying out its statutorily-required function. The intent of using the UAS is to locate standing water and the presence of arthropods through the use of the LiDAR system attached to a drone.

III. Reasonable Care when Operating UAS and Collecting and Storing Data

The District adopts the following guidelines for operating UAS and collecting and storing data:

1. In the absence of a compelling need to do otherwise, or consent of the data subjects, the District will endeavor to avoid using UAS for the specific

¹ As used herein, the terms “Unmanned Aircraft Systems” or “UAS” shall mean any unmanned aircraft, or an aircraft that is operated without direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft, and the associated elements (including communication links and components that control the unmanned aircraft) that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate safely and efficiently in the National Airspace System.

² See § 388.021, Florida Statutes, which explains the Florida Legislature’s purpose for creating mosquito control districts.

purpose of intentionally collecting covered data³ where the District knows the data subject has a reasonable expectation of privacy.

2. In the absence of a compelling need to do otherwise, or consent of the data subjects, the District will endeavor to avoid using UAS for the specific purpose of persistent and continuous collection of covered data about individuals.
3. The District will make a reasonable effort to avoid knowingly retaining covered data longer than reasonably necessary to fulfill its statutorily-required purpose.
4. If publicly disclosing covered data is not necessary to fulfill the purpose for which the UAS is used, the District will endeavor to avoid knowingly publicly disclosing data collected via UAS until the operator has undertaken a reasonable effort to obfuscate or de-identify covered data —unless the data subjects provide consent to the disclosure.
5. The District will take measures to manage security risks of covered data by implementing a program that contains reasonable administrative, technical, and physical safe-guards appropriate to the nature and scope of its activities and the sensitivity of the covered data.

IV. Ongoing Policy Management

The District will monitor and comply with the laws and regulations applicable to UAS as they evolve. As laws and regulations evolve and UAS technology improves, the District will review this policy annually and update it as needed. As appropriate, the District will update its website to reflect its current policy on UAS on an ongoing basis, and will provide a general summary of UAS operations conducted by the District during the previous year.

Lee County Mosquito Control District

David F. Hoel, PhD.
Executive Director

³ As used herein, the term “covered data” shall mean information collected by a UAS that identifies a particular person. If data collected by UAS likely will not be linked to an individual’s name or other personally identifiable information, or if the data is altered so that a specific person is not recognizable, it is not covered data.