

EMA's Unmanned Aerial System

Unmanned Aerial System - UAS

- Leading the State in capability.
- 22 members have deployed for 14 live (immediate need) missions successfully.
- COA renewal granted in August of 2018, with night flying authorization.
- Created Air Ops branch within IMT.

York County EMA started a UAS (Unmanned Aerial System) / Drone program to assist Towns and Local Responders with Search and Rescue and other response needs during emergencies in the spring of 2017 and to date have provided Local Communities with 27 live assistance missions.

The most unique aspect of the program is that the team of pilots who must be certified to FAA standards is a completely volunteer group, including the team lead being a commercial real estate broker/ commercial pilot, a medical doctor, a United Airlines pilot, President of the local chapter of search and rescue among many other professional individuals who make themselves available 'on call' for any type of response.

Some of the unique missions the team has provided to local responders have included overhead visual assistance for the large Sanford Mill fire, search and rescue assistance to the Maine Warden Service for several lost individuals, homeland security aerial surveillance assistance to police departments for major large gathering events, surveillance of an active shooter incident and timely responses to building fires where the Fire Chiefs needed overhead views of hot-spots.

The program has been highly successful and is called upon by many of the towns needing immediate assistance. The advantage to the local communities is that while their already short staffed 1st responders are engaged in the event (like fighting a fire) the volunteer team arrives simultaneously and provides support and assistance.

York County EMA - UAS Mission List

1. March 2017 – Missing child - Acton
2. May 2017 – Byron SAR -no launch but deployed
3. Apr 2017 – PTSAR Night Training -Saco
4. Jun 2017 – Sanford Mill Fire
5. Jul 2017 - multi structure fire - Sanford
6. *Aug 2017 – Interior Fire mfr plant – Biddeford
7. *Sep 2017 – Missing person SAR-Bath area
8. *Oct 2017 – PD stand off - Lebanon
9. Feb 2018 – USCG Tug sinking offshore – no launch but deployed
10. *Mar 2018 – Marshwood Live Shooter Training -Eliot

11. April 2018 - Structure fire -BFD - Biddeford
12. April 2018 - Coastal Damage Survey -Camp Ellis
13. April 2018 – Coastal Damage Survey -Kennebunk
14. April 2018 – Coastal Damage Survey -Wells
15. April 2018 – Aerial school imagery for York PD – Four locations
16. May 2018 – Saco PD Tasking Missing Person – no launch but deployed
17. May 2018 – Brush Fire -Kennebunk, Wells, Sanford
18. May 2018 – Bonney Eagle EVAC drill - Waterboro
19. Jun 2018 – MEMA Exercise -Salmon Falls River Exercise - S Berwick
20. Jun 2018 – LaKermesse PD Tasking – Biddeford
21. Aug 2018 - Hollis Festival Days Demo - Hollis
22. Sep 2018 - Night Training PTSAR - Ferry Beach State Park, Saco
23. Sep 2018 - Skydive search -Lebanon
24. Oct 2018 - Missing person (Westra) - No Yarmouth
25. Oct 2018 - Kennebunk EMS Open House
26. Oct 2018 - Missing person (Howard) - Waterford
27. Nov 2018 - Missing hunter - S. Berwick/Eliot -no launch but deployed 3




