

STATE OF VERMONT



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
VERMONT STATE POLICE
Special Operations Unit
45 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05495**

Department of Public Safety Report
House and Senate Judiciary
House and Senate Government Operations
On
2021 Vermont Law Enforcement Agency Drone Use

This document serves as the 2021 reporting requirement mandated by Section 4624 of Title 20. By statute, law enforcement agencies are required to send the Department of Public Safety (DPS) information related to any drone use within the previous 12 months. *See* 20 V.S.A. § 4624(a). Annually, DPS must forward the information collected pursuant to subsection (a) of this statute to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Government Operations. *See* 20 V.S.A. § 4624(b).

Vermont law enforcement agencies must report to DPS the following information:

- (1) The number of times the agency used a drone within the previous 12 months. For each use of a drone, the agency shall report the type of incident involved, the nature of the information collected, and the rationale for deployment of the drone.
- (2) The number of criminal investigations aided and arrests made through use of information gained by the use of drones within the previous 12 months, including a description of how the drone aided each investigation or arrest.
- (3) The number of times a drone collected data on any person, home, or area other than the target of the surveillance within the previous 12 months and the type of data collected in each instance.
- (4) The cost of the agency's drone program and the program's source of funding.

See 20 V.S.A. § 4624(a).

In accordance with statute, DPS submits the following 2021 law enforcement drone usage information received from the Vermont State Police:

The Department of Public Safety is not knowingly in receipt of any reports or information documenting the use of drones from other municipal, county or state law enforcement agencies

"Your Safety Is Our Business"

- 1. The number of times the agency used a drone within the previous 12 months. For each use of a drone, the agency shall report the type of incident involved, the nature of the information collected, and the rationale for deployment of the drone.**
 - The Vermont State Police report deploying a drone 94 times in 2021.
 - See Appendix (A)* for type of incident involved, nature of information collected and reason for deployment

- 2. The number of criminal investigations aided and arrests made through use of information gained by the use of drones within the previous 12 months, including a description of how the drone aided each investigation or arrest.**
 - The State Police used drones to support investigations 60 times. 31 times drones were used to capture images of serious/fatal motor vehicle crashes, 16 times for documenting various crime scenes, 3 times to capture aerial images of fire/arson scenes, and 10 times to locate and observe the actions of subjects that were determined to possess a risk of harm to officers or the public.
 - Drones were used to aid investigations by capturing images, and/or video, and/or providing non-recorded real-time video feed.
 - The use of drones and the information gained by the use was never the sole basis for an arrest.

- 3. The number of times a drone collected data on any person, home, or area other than the target of the surveillance within the previous 12 months and the type of data collected in each instance.**
 - The Vermont State Police is not aware of any collected data on any person, home, or area other than the target of the surveillance and in accordance with Title 20 V.S.A. § 4622.

- 4. The cost of the agency's drone program and the program's source of funding.**
 - The Vermont State Police's Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program had no direct costs other than the hours worked by member/pilots. The State Police UAS program was awarded a \$125,479.00 Homeland Security Grant to purchase additional equipment and accessories to support its increasing demand.

*Attached: Appendix (A) – Vermont State Police UAS Activations 2021.

Vermont State Police UAS Team
Special Team Activations 2021

Number	Date	Location	Description of Incident	Agency	Collected	
				Assisted?	Data	Classification
1	1/1/21	Rockingham	Vehicle crash with pedestrian	N/A	Y	CRT
2	1/10/21	Vergennes	Shooting incident	Vergennes PD	Y	CSST
3	1/17/21	Montpelier	UAS operational standby for "Refused to be Silenced" - call for armed marches on State Houses - no flights conducted	VT Capitol PD	N	Special Ops
4	2/15/21	St. Johnsbury	Suspicious death investigation	N/A	Y	CSST
5	2/22/21	Monkton	Vehicle Crash on Monkton Ridge Road	N/A	Y	CRT
6	3/12/21	Mendon	Fatal vehicle crash with pedestrian	N/A	Y	CRT
7	3/16/21	Danby	Suspicious death investigation from moving vehicle	N/A	Y	CRT
8	3/19/21	Fletcher	Suspicious death investigation	N/A	Y	CSST
9	3/19/21	Derby	Suspicious arson investigation	N/A	Y	Arson
10	3/26/21	Swanton	Search for Missing Kite Skier	Canada	N	SAR/BCI
11	3/27/21	Swanton	Search for Missing Kite Skier	Canada	Y	SAR/BCI
12	3/30/21	Randolph	Search for missing female	N/A	N	SAR
13	4/5/21	Hartland	Vehicle crash with pedestrian	N/A	Y	CRT
14	4/9/21	Cambridge	Activated for two missing juveniles, located before flight	N/A	N	SAR
15	4/11/21	Marshfield	Activated for overwatch for wanted dangerous subject	N/A	N	Tactical
16	4/13/21	Marshfield	Activated for overwatch to assist with search warrant	N/A	N	Tactical
17	4/17/21	Bristol	Search & Rescue for missing subject along river	N/A	N	SAR
18	4/19/21	Charlotte	Activated for missing juvenile from boat collision, cancelled in route	N/A	N	SAR
19	4/22/21	Rutland Town	Vehicle crash suspected impairment	N/A	Y	CRT
20	4/26/21	Putney	Fatal vehicle crash investigation	N/A	Y	CRT
21	5/1/21	Hartland	Vehicle crash with pedestrian - second flight	N/A	Y	CRT
22	5/3/21	Newbury	Response to barricaded murder subject	N/A	N	Tactical
23	5/4/21	Newbury	Homicide investigation	N/A	Y	CSST
24	5/8/21	Middlebury	Attempted Homicide Middlebury	Middlebury PD	Y	CSST
25	5/13/21	Danby	Consent Flight Cold Case Homicide	N/A	Y	CSST
26	5/15/21	Ira	Single-vehicle motorcycle fatal collision	N/A	y	CRT
27	5/18/21	Georgia	Flew mission to check on despondent/suicidal male in residence for TSU	N/A	N	Tactical

28	5/24/21	Castleton	Three vehicle crash with serious bodily injury	Castleton PD	Y	CRT
29	5/25/21	Sharon	Double fatal crash investigation	N/A	Y	CRT
30	6/1/21	Ludlow	SAR search for missing Ludlow Man	Ludlow PD	Y	SAR
31	6/1/21	Ludlow	Sar search for missing Ludlow Man	Ludlow PD	Y	SAR
32	6/1/21	Ludlow	SAR search for missing Ludlow Man	Ludlow PD	Y	SAR
33	6/1/21	Ludlow	SAR search for missing Ludlow Man	Ludlow PD	N	SAR/BCI
34	6/3/21	Ludlow	SAR search for missing Ludlow Man	Ludlow PD	Y	SAR
35	6/13/21	Mt. Holly	Fatal Crash investigation	N/A	Y	CRT
36	6/20/21	Barton	Single-motorcycle fatal collision	N/A	Y	CRT
37	6/23/21	West Haven	Two vehicle head-on collision with fatality	N/A	Y	CRT
38	6/23/21	Island Pond	Mapped arson in Island Pond	N/A	Y	Arson
39	6/27/21	Jay	Single-vehicle crash with serious bodily injury to juvenile passenger	N/A	Y	CRT
40	6/28/21	Randolph Ctr	Male with firearm and sword involved in family fight, fled onto VTC campus	N/A	N	Tactical
41	6/28/21	Marlboro	Mapped Shooting Scene	N/A	Y	CSST
42	6/28/21	Eden	Head-on motor vehicle collision	N/A	Y	CRT
43	6/29/21	Burlington	Flew search mission for missing boater	Burlington PD	N	SAR
44	7/5/21	Rutland Town	Motor vehicle versus pedestrian fatal collision	N/A	Y	CRT
45	7/15/21	Saxton River	SAR search for missing boater	N/A	N	SAR
46	7/24/21	Killington	SAR search for missing person	Killington PD	N	SAR
47	7/25/21	Barton	SAR search for missing boaters	N/A	Y	SAR/BCI
48	7/30/21	Thetford	Scene mapping of serious bodily injury single-vehicle crash	N/A	Y	CRT
49	8/4/21	Swanton	Scene mapping of motorcycle versus hay truck	N/A	Y	CRT
50	8/6/21	Troy	Scene mapping of male found decease in Troy, possible vehicle vs pedestrian	N/A	Y	CRT
51	8/6/21	Hartford	Scene mapping of officer involved shooting	Hartford PD	Y	CSST
52	8/8/21	Milton	SAR search for missing and injured ATV rider who fell off cliff	Milton PD	N	SAR
53	8/10/21	Stockbridge	Fatal Crash investigation	N/A	Y	CRT
54	8/10/21	Burke	Scene mapping of fatal motorcycle versus manure truck	N/A	Y	CRT
55	8/15/21	Hinesburg	Tactical request to look for fleeing felon	Williston PD	N	Tactical
56	8/16/21	Barnard	SAR search for missing child	N/A	N	SAR
57	8/22/21	Waltham	SAR search for missing adult with dementia	N/A	N	SAR

58	8/23/21	South Royalton	Search for fleeing subject from pursuit with Royalton PD	Royalton PD	N	Tactical
59	8/25/21	Rutland City	CSST Mapping of officer involved shooting	Rutland City	Y	CSST
60	8/30/21	Saxton River	SAR search for missing person in River	N/A	Y	SAR
61	9/6/21	Vernon	Overwatch for barricaded suspect	N/A	N	Tactical
62	9/7/21	Vernon	Overwatch for barricaded suspect	N/A	Y	Tactical
63	9/7/21	Starksboro	Mapping fatal vehicle versus motorcycle collision	N/A	Y	CRT
64	9/10/21	Sheldon	Mapping double fatal collision	N/A	Y	CRT
65	9/15/21	New Haven	Mapping Fatal vehicle versus motorcycle collision	N/A	Y	CRT
66	9/16/21	Waterbury	Six vehicle fatal collision	N/A	Y	CRT
67	9/29/21	Orleans	Provided overwatch for TSU while executing warrant	N/A	N	Tactical
68	10/6/21	Weathersfield	Mapping area for death investigation	N/A	Y	CSST
69	10/9/21	Putney	Mapped Arson scene	N/A	Y	Arson
70	10/11/21	Marlboro	SAR callout for missing person - canceled while en-route	N/A	N	SAR
71	10/15/21	Brookfield	Crash Reconstruction	N/A	Y	CRT
72	10/18/21	Woodstock	Mapping two-vehicle serious bodily injury crash	Woodstock PD	Y	CRT
73	10/20/21	Killington	Mapped collision scene of three vehicle fatal crash	N/A	Y	CRT
74	10/22/21	Greensboro	CSST Mapping of Shooting Scene	N/A	Y	CSST
75	10/24/21	Stockbridge	SAR activation for missing person - canceled while en route	N/A	N	SAR
76	11/2/21	Somerset	SAR activation for missing hiker	N/A	N	SAR
77	11/2/21	Hartford	Agency Assist for Hartford PD for missing person	Hartford PD	N	SAR
78	11/11/21	Charlotte	Search for missing persons vehicle in fields	N/A	N	SAR
79	11/12/21	Hartford	Agency Assist for Hartford PD for missing person	Hartford PD	Y	SAR
80	11/13/21	Hartford	Agency Assist for Hartford PD for missing person	Hartford PD	N	SAR
81	11/15/21	Northfield	Public Speaking at Norwich University regarding LE use of drones	N/A	N	Public Speaking
82	11/18/21	Weathersfield	Overhead Manual Imaging of Agg. Assault Suicide Scene	N/A	Y	CSST
83	11/21/21	Barton	UAS assist to BCI for missing person	N/A	Y	SAR
84	11/23/21	Killington	Drone images of completed Killington World Cup Security Setup	N/A	Y	Special Ops
85	11/24/21	Windsor	Flew mission to document fatal wrong-way driver crash	N/A	Y	CRT
86	11/26/21	Barre	Request for use of drone to look for missing person near airport - Declined due to airspace and weather restrictions	Barre		SAR
87	11/27/21	Killington	UAS operational standby for IC during FIS World Cup - no flights conducted	Killington PD	N	Special Ops

88	11/28/21	Alburg	Overhead Photos of public area for homicide investigation	N/A	Y	CSST
89	11/28/21	Alburg	Overhead Photos of Murder / Murder Shooting Scene	N/A	Y	CSST
90	11/28/21	Killington	UAS operational standby for IC during FIS World Cup - no flights conducted	Killington PD	N	Special Ops
91	11/29/21	Elmore	Overhead Photos of Murder / Suicide Scene	N/A	Y	CSST
92	11/29/21	Elmore	Flew mission to document scene of murder/suicide	N/A	Y	CSST
93	12/14/21	Brattleboro	Assist recruiting, video event	N/A	Y	Admin
94	12/24/21	Dorset	Mapping Flight for SBI Pedestrian v. MV	N/A	Y	CRT