STATE OF VERMONT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
VERMONT STATE POLICE
Special Operations Unit
45 State Drive
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Department of Public Safety Report
House and Senate Judiciary
House and Senate Government Operations
On
2022 Vermont Law Enforcement Agency Drone Use

This document serves as the 2022 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 2022 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

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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 91 times in 2022.

   - 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 79 times. 32 times drones were used to capture images of serious/fatal motor vehicle crashes, 22 times for documenting various crime scenes, 13 times to capture aerial images of fire/arson scenes, and 12 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 this 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 incurred $837.00 in equipment repairs, $1,055.38 in replacement batteries, propellers and guards. These purchases were made using Vermont State Police General Funds. The State Police UAS program was awarded a $111,519.96 Homeland Security Grant to purchase additional equipment and accessories to support its increasing demand.

*Attached: Appendix (A) – Vermont State Police UAS Activations 2022

Number	Date	Location	Description of Incident	Assist Agency	Which Agency?	Classification
1	1/6/2022	Thetford	CRT scene mapping at fatal crash	Y	Thetford PD	CRT
2	1/23/2022	Middlebury	Missing Person - subject located deceased while enroute	Y	Middlebury	SAR
3	1/25/2022	Thetford	Crash Reconstruction Team mapping case follow up flight	Y	Thetford PD	CRT
4	1/27/2022	Richmond	Mapped SBI collision on I89N MM77	N	N/A	CRT
5	2/2/2022	Swanton	Overhead Photos for Homicide Scene	Y	Swanton PD	CSST
6	2/9/2022	East Montpelier	Mapped fatal collision scene	N	N/A	CRT
7	2/25/2022	Bolton	Occupants fled from vehicle into woods and river(CANCELED ENROUTE)	N	N/A	SAR
8	2/26/2022	Colchester	Mapped fatal collision scene	N	N/A	CRT
9	2/27/2022	Saint Johnsbury	Flew mission over river looking for drowning victim	N	N/A	Marine
10	2/28/2022	Rutland Town	Overhead Photos and Video for possible projectiles fired into residence.	Y	Rutland Town PD	CSST
11	3/1/2022	Lyndonville	Overhead Photos for Homicide Scene	N	N/A	CSST
12	3/11/2022	Barre Town	Mapped fatal pedestrian LSA collision	Y	Barre Town	CRT
13	3/11/2022	Bethel	WCAX Interview	N	N/A	Media
14	3/14/2022	Hartland	Residential Search Warrant - Burglary	N	N/A	Tactical
15	3/15/2022	Westminster	Overhead Photos for shooting scene from home invasion.	N	N/A	CSST
16	3/16/2022	Swanton	Runaway juvenile (RESPONSE DECLINED) no search area defined	N	N/A	SAR
17	3/21/2022	Saint Johnsbury	Additional search of Passumpsic River for drowning victim	N	N/A	Marine
18	3/22/2022	Swanton	Runaway juvenile with protective custody order	N	N/A	SAR
19	4/12/2022	Morristown	Overhead Photos for Homicide Scene	Y	Morristown PD	CSST
20	4/13/2022	Hartford	UAS asset on stand-by for TSU/Bomb Squad search warrant	Y	Hartford	Tactical
21	4/17/2022	Pittsford	Overhead photos for serious bodily injury Crash	N	N/A	CRT
22	4/25/2022	Saint Johnsbury	Overhead photographs of fire scene	N	N/A	Arson
23	4/30/2022	Rutland Town	Overhead Photos for Human Recovery Scene	Y	Rutland Town PD	CSST
24	5/6/2022	Enosburg Falls	Overhead photos of CRT scene	N	N/A	CRT
25	5/7/2022	Swanton	Overhead photos of homicide scene	N	N/A	CSST
26	5/7/2022	Montgomery	Overhead photos of CRT scene	N	N/A	CRT
27	5/9/2022	Springfield	Interior flight looking for armed barricaded subject	Y	Springfield PD	Tactical
28	5/10/2022	Waterbury	Search for missing person from 2006	N	N/A	SAR/BCI
29	5/11/2022	Rutland Town	Overhead Photos of Trajectory Site / Source Location	Y	Rutland Town PD	CSST
30	5/12/2022	Greensboro	Overhead Photogrammetry Flight For Attempted Homicide Scene	N	N/A	CSST
31	5/12/2022	Craftsbury	Overhead Photogrammetry Flight For Attempted Homicide Scene	N	N/A	CSST
32	5/16/2022	Royalton	Crash with serious injury	N	N/A	CRT
33	5/16/2022	Proctor	Fire investigation no injury	N	N/A	BCI
34	5/24/2022	Hartford	Fire Investigation, Arson	Y	Hartford PD/FD	BCI
35	5/26/2022	Georgia	Mapped scene of fatal crash on I89N	N	N/A	CRT
36	5/28/2022	Williamstown	Overhead photos of fatal crash on VT Route 14	N	N/A	CRT
37	6/2/2022	Williamstown	Map doubel fatal collision scene	N	N/A	CRT
38	6/6/2022	Swanton	Map motorcycle versus truck with SBI	N	N/A	CRT
39	6/12/2022	Rutland City	Overhead Photos of Homicide Scene Baxter Street	Y	Rutland City	CSST
40	6/14/2022	Woodstock	Overwatch for TSU mission with barricaded suspect	Y	Woodstock	Tactical
41	6/15/2022	Woodstock	Overhead Photos of Murder Suicide officer involved shooting scene	N	N/A	CSST
42	6/17/2022	Newfane	Overhead Photographs For Use of Force Scene	N	N/A	CSST
43	6/17/2022	Winhall	Crash Reconstruction UAS automated flight	Y	Winhall PD	CRT
44	6/20/2022	Bellows Falls	UAS photo's of fire scene	N	N/A	BCI
45	6/21/2022	Marshfield	Fatal Fire scene overhead photos	N	N/A	BCI
46	7/8/2022	Burlington	Searched for homicide suspect in the Intervale	Y	Burlington	Tactical
47	7/15/2022	Stowe	UAS photo's of fire scene	N	N/A	BCI
48	7/19/2022	Eden	Mapped fatal ATV versus car crash	N	N/A	CRT
49	7/19/2022	Eden	Overwatch for TSU mission for arrest warrant	N	N/A	Tactical
50	7/19/2022	Brattleboro	Mapping for Homicide	Y	Brattleboro PD	CSST
51	7/20/2022	Essex	Mapped serious bodily injury crash on 289	Y	Essex	CRT
52	7/20/2022	Brattleboro	Mapping Officer Involved Shooting Scene	N	N/A	CSST
53	8/9/2022	Wardsboro	Overhead Photographs for Homicide Scene	N	N/A	CSST
54	8/10/2022	Huntington	Mapped serious bodily injury crash on Main Road	N	N/A	CRT
55	8/13/2022	Burlington	Mapped office involved shooting scene	Y	Burlington	CSST
56	8/14/2022	Tinmouth	Recon for armed suspect. Overwatch.	N	N/A	Tactical
57	8/15/2022	Sheldon	Mapped fatal motor vehicle crash	N	Sheldon	CRT
58	8/15/2022	Williamstown	UAS photo's of fire scene	N	N/A	BCI
59	8/16/2022	Brookfield	Mapped fatal motor vehicle crash	N	Brookfield	CRT
60	8/26/2022	Rockingham	UAS photos of fatal fire scene	N	N/A	BCI
61	8/31/2022	Brighton	UAS photos of crime scene/ offenders residence bomb/FEIU warrant	N	N/A	BCI
62	9/2/2022	Berkshire	Mapped fatal crash	N	N/A	CRT
63	9/12/2022	Milton	Mapped serious bodily injury crash	N	N/A	CRT
64	9/14/2022	Waterbury	SAR flight for missing female	N	N/A	SAR
65	9/18/2022	Coventry	Overhead photos of CRT scene	N	N/A	CRT
66	9/20/2022	Saint Johnsbury	Overhead photos of CRT scene	N	N/A	CRT
67	9/27/2022	Lowell	Mapped serious bodily injury crash	N	N/A	CRT
68	10/3/2022	Newport Center	Crash Reconstruction flight	N	N/A	CRT
69	10/5/2022	Braintree	Attempt to locate fleeing felon	N	N/A	Tactical
70	10/6/2022	East Montpelier	Mapped serious bodily injury crash on US Route 2	N	N/A	CRT
71	10/8/2022	Richmond	Mapped serious bodily injury crash on I89	N	N/A	CRT
72	10/10/2022	Fair Haven	UAS photos of fire scene	Y	Fair Haven PD	BCI

73	10/13/2022	Liverpool, NY	UAS Video and Photo	N	N/A	CSST
74	10/19/2022	Shelburne	Mapped fatal crash on US Route 7	Y	Shelburne	CRT
75	10/19/2022	South Burlington	Mapped fatal crash on VT Route 116	Y	South Burlington	CRT
76	10/26/2022	Georgia	Activated for missing child, located prior to UAS deployment	N	N/A	SAR
77	11/1/2022	Lunenburg	UAS photos of fire/explosion scene	N	N/A	BCI
78	11/10/2022	Island Pond	SAR flight for missing female	N	N/A	SAR
79	11/17/2022	Barnard	Bomb Squad Disposal Survey	N	N/A	Tactical
80	11/18/2022	Sharon	Mapped Fatal Crash scene	N	N/A	CRT
81	11/26/2022	Killington	Overwatch mission for Killington World Cup	Y	Killington	Tactical
82	11/27/2022	Killington	Overwatch mission for Killington World Cup	Y	Killington	Tactical
83	12/2/2022	Readsboro	Fire Investigation (fatal) scene documentation	N	N/A	BCI
84	12/2/2022	Eden	Mapping flight for homicide scene	N	N/A	CSST
85	12/5/2022	St Albans	Fire scene mapping	Y	St Albans PD	BCI
86	12/12/2022	Walden	Two car fatal crash	N	N/A	CRT
87	12/14/2022	St. Johnsbury	Scene Mapping Homicide	Y	St. Johnsbury PD	CSST
88	12/15/2022	Bethel	Double Fatal Fire, scene mapping	N	N/A	BCI
89	12/19/2022	St. Johnsbury	Activated for TSU mission	N	N/A	Tactical
90	12/19/2022	Hartford	Assist to Hartford PD for search of Quechee Gorge	Y	Hartford PD	SAR
91	12/20/2022	Wardsboro	Search Warrant Execution	N	N/A	CSST