

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  
2024 Vermont Law Enforcement Agency Drone Use

This document serves as the 2024 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 2024 law enforcement drone usage information received from the Vermont State Police, Hartford Police Department, Burlington Police Department, Middlebury Police Department, Brandon Police Department & Milton Police Department:

*\*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\**

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 reported deploying a drone 169 times in the previous 12 months. See Appendix (A)\* for the type of incident involved, nature of information collected and reason for deployment.
  - The Burlington Police Department reported deploying a drone 7 times in 2024. See Appendix (B)\* for type of incident involved, nature of information collected and reason for deployment.
  - The Middlebury Police Department reported deploying a drone 10 times in 2024. See Appendix (C)\* for type of incident involved, nature of information collected and reason for deployment.
  - The Milton Police Department reported deploying a drone 10 times in 2024. See Appendix (D)\* for type of incident involved, nature of information collected and reason for deployment.
  - The Hartford Police Department reported deploying a drone 5 times in 2024. See Appendix (E)\* for type of incident involved, nature of information collected and reason for deployment.
  - Brandon Police Department reported that they did not use their drone in 2024. See Appendix (F)\* 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 131 times. 38 times drones were used to capture images of serious/fatal motor vehicle crashes, 40 times for documenting various crime scenes, 12 times to capture aerial images of fire/arson scenes, and 53 times to locate and observe the actions of subjects that were determined to possess a risk of harm to officers or the public. State Police drones were used to aid investigations by capturing images, and/or video, and/or providing non-recorded real-time video feed. The use of State Police drones and the information gained by this use was never the sole basis for an arrest.
- Burlington Police used drones for 4 criminal investigations aided including 1 arrest made. In each of these instances, a UAS was used to safely search for a suspect without putting officers unduly at risk.
- The Middlebury Police Department used drones to support criminal investigations 3 times, with 2 of those deployments resulting in an arrest. Middlebury Police Department drones were used to aid three criminal investigations by searching for subjects actively eluding police, with two such incidents involving suspects with active warrants for their arrest. The use of Middlebury Police Department drones and the information gained by their use was never the sole basis for an arrest.
- The Milton Police Department used drones to support criminal investigations 3 times with 2 times resulting in an arrest. Milton Police Department drones were used to aid investigations by searching for a wanted subject, supporting officers during a search warrant and during a standoff with an armed subject wanted for First Degree Aggravated Domestic Assault involving a firearm. The Milton Police Department used drones 7 times for Search and Rescue incidents. The use of Milton Police drones and the information gained by this use was never the sole basis for an arrest.
- The Hartford Police Department reported no criminal investigations were aided and no arrests made through the use of information gained by the use of drones within the previous 12 months.
- Brandon Police Department reported no criminal investigations were aided and no arrests made through use of information gained by the use of drones within the previous 12 months.

**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.
- The Burlington Police Department reported that in one instance a BPD UAS recorded video of the exterior of numerous residences in the vicinity of a high-risk arrest. No private data was otherwise collected. A search warrant was obtained after the fact.
- The Middlebury Police Department collected data, in the form of aerial photos (thermal & non-thermal), as part of their deployment on 3 incidents. Two were criminal investigations and one was for search and rescue.
- The Milton Police Department is not aware of any data collected on any person, home, or area other than the target of the surveillance and in accordance with Title 20 V.S.A § 4622.
- The Hartford Police Department reported that one time a drone was used to collect data on any person, home, or area other than the target of the surveillance within the previous 12 months.
- Brandon Police Department reported that there were zero times where a drone was used to collect data on any person, home, or area other than the target of the surveillance within the previous 12 months.

**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 \$2,125.41 on repairs, protective cases, training equipment, and FAA registration. This amount was purchased with General Funds. An additional \$38,280.00 was used to purchase year 2 of 5 of the Brinc Safeguard Program. This amount was purchased using General Funds. An additional \$40,889.96 was used to purchase drones and accessories with enhanced capabilities of indoor flight and search and rescue missions. This amount came from unused department surplus funds. The total expenditures of VSP's UAS Program totaled \$81,295.37 for the previous 12 months.
- In 2023 the Burlington Police Department used \$19627.53 for the creation of their UAV/ Drone Program. The source of funding was equitable sharing funds and general funds. In 2024 the Burlington Police Department spent \$5703.26 on additional equipment. The source of the funding was general funds.



- Middlebury PD UAS Program expenditures paid for using town funds include the following: Equipment: DJI Matrice 30T - \$9,821.00, TB30 Batteries (2<sup>nd</sup> set) - \$658.00, other Miscellaneous Equipment - \$90.00. Training: FAA “Part 107” Certificate Prep Course - \$299.00. Certifications: Part 107 Certificates (two pilots) - \$350.00. Additionally, Middlebury reported spending \$2,841.50 of personal funds for equipment and registration. The total reported expenditure from all funding sources amounted to \$14,059.50.
- The Milton Police Department reported the following information regarding the cost of their agency’s drone program. The following equipment was purchased using authorized forfeiture funds from the DEA asset forfeiture program. DJI Mavic 3 Thermal - \$5,604.30, DJI Mavic 3 Battery Kit - \$642.52, DJI Avata Public Safety Package - \$2,025.00. Additional items purchased with Milton Police Department General Funds: Spare Propellers for Avata - \$9.00, 4x Aurora A1 flashlights for Avata - \$111.80, DJI Avata Flymore Battery Kit - \$279.00. The total of all costs was \$8671.62.
- The Hartford Police Department reported total expenditure amounting to \$4,000.00. \$2,000.00 was awarded from a Walmart grant and \$2,000.00 came from the police departments operating budget.
- The Brandon Police Department reported total expenditure amounting to \$400.00 from their general fund to purchase their department’s drone.

\*Attached: Appendix (A) – Vermont State Police UAS Activations 2024

Appendix (B) – Burlington Police Department UAS Activations 2024

Appendix (C) – Middlebury Police Department UAS Activations 2024

Appendix (D) – Milton Police Department UAS Activations 2024

Appendix (E) – Hartford Police Department UAS Activations 2024

Appendix (F) – Brandon Police Department UAS Activations 2024

Department of Public Safety Report  
House and Senate Judiciary  
House and Senate Government Operations  
On  
2024 Vermont Law Enforcement Agency Drone Use

**Appendix (A) – Vermont State Police UAS Activations 2024**

**Vermont State Police UAS Team  
Special Team Activations 2024 Legislative Report**

Number	Date	Location	Description of Incident	Assist Agency	Which Agency?	Classification
1	11/26/2023	Killington	UAS standby for World Cup	Y	Killington PD	Tactical
2	11/26/2023	Bethel, VT	TSU search for wanted subject	Y	Windsor CSD	Tactical
3	11/30/2023	Pittsford	Mapped Scene of SBI Crash	N	N/A	CRT
4	12/1/2023	Highgate	Mapped Crash Scene	N	N/A	CSST
5	12/1/2023	Saint Albans	TSU search for wanted subject	Y	Saint Albans City	Tactical
6	12/4/2023	New Haven	TSU search warrant	N	N/A	Tactical
7	12/7/2023	Rutland Town	Mapped Crash Scene	Y	Rutland Town PD	CRT
8	12/8/2023	Brattleboro	TSU search warrant	N	N/A	Tactical
9	12/10/2023	Morrisville, VT	Fire Investigation	Y	Morrisville PD	BCI
10	12/12/2023	Barton	Mapped scene of fatal crash	N	N/A	CRT
11	12/14/2023	Fairfield	SAR for missing subject in woods	N	N/A	SAR
12	12/15/2023	St. Albans City	TSU search warrant	Y	Franklin County Sheriffs	Tactical
13	12/15/2023	Randolph	Wreaths Across America	Y	Veterans Cemetery	Other
14	12/17/2023	Washington	Overhead Photographs of a Property	N	N/A	CSST
15	12/20/2023	Montpelier	Search and Rescue for Missing Person	Y	Montpelier FD	SAR
16	12/20/2023	Tunbridge	Non-fatal shooting for BCI (warrant)	N	N/A	CSST
17	12/21/2023	St. Johnsbury	Crime Scene Mapping	N	N/A	Tactical
18	12/25/2023	Bridport, VT	Mapped scene of fatal crash	N	N/A	CRT
19	12/25/2023	Swanton	Search for missing person	N	N/A	SAR
20	1/1/2024	St. Albans Town	SAR Missing person	Y	Franklin County SD	SAR
21	1/3/2024	Williston	Mapping of Crash Scene	Y	Williston PD	CRT
22	1/4/2024	Wolcott	Response to look for armed subject - No flight	Y	Lamoille Co.	Tactical
23	1/4/2024	Springfield	TSU assist for search warrant	Y	Springfield PD	Tactical
24	1/9/2024	Bakersfield	Crash investigation mapping	N	N/A	CRT
25	1/6/2024	Bellows Falls	Crash investigation mapping	Y	Bellows Falls PD	CRT
26	1/13/2024	Franklin	Search for missing person on Lake Carmi - Canceled enroute	N	N/A	SAR
27	1/22/2024	Swanton	Search for missing person on Missisquoi Bay	N	N/A	SAR
28	1/22/2024	Burlington	TSU activation for Hostage Rescue	Y	Burlington PD	Tactical
29	2/1/2024	Hardwick	Crash investigation mapping	Y	Hardwick PD	CRT
30	2/7/2024	Pownal	Overhead Photogrammetry of Homicide	N	N/A	CSST
31	2/7/2024	Troy	Overhead Photogrammetry of Homicide	N	N/A	CSST
32	2/5/2024	Hardwick	Crash Scene Mapping	Y	Hardwick PD	CRT
33	2/11/2024	Georgia	Crash Scene Mapping	N	N/A	CRT
34	2/1/2024	Barre City	Fire Investigation	Y	Barre City PD	BCI
35	2/4/2024	N Troy	Search for Missing Person	N	N/A	SAR
36	2/15/2024	Georgia	Mapping of Crash Scene	N	N/A	CRT
37	2/10/2024	Pittsford	Mapping of property damage	N	N/A	CRT
38	2/13/2024	Pownal	Search for evidence	N	N/A	CSST
39	2/27/2024	Wolcott	Search for runaway felon	Y	Lamoille Co.	SAR
40	3/5/2024	Enosburgh	Search for armed subject	N	N/A	SAR
41	3/9/2024	Barnet	Mapping of Fatal MV Crash	N	N/A	CRT
42	3/30/2024	Brighton	TSU search warrant	N	N/A	Tactical
43	3/30/2024	Shaftsbury	SAR Missing person	N	N/A	SAR
44	3/13/2024	Barton	TSU search warrant	N	N/A	Tactical
45	3/6/2024	Sheldon	TSU search warrant	N	N/A	Tactical
46	2/18/2024	Montpelier	TSU search warrant	Y	Montpelier	Tactical
47	4/5/2024	St. Albans	TSU search warrant	Y	St. Albans	Tactical
48	4/8/2024	St. George	Search for missing juvenile	N	N/A	SAR
49	4/7/2024	Pawlet	TSU search warrant	N	N/A	Tactical
50	3/13/2024	Orleans	Mapping of homicides scene	N	N/A	CSST
51	4/11/2024	Moretown	Mapping fatal crash	N	N/A	CRT
52	4/15/2024	Eden	Search for domestic assault suspect	N	N/A	Tactical
53	4/12/2024	Enosburgh	TSU search warrant with USMS	Y	USMS	Tactical
54	4/16/2024	Williamstown	Search warrant execution	N	N/A	Tactical
55	4/19/2024	Williston	Response to armed suicidal/barricaded subject	Y	Williston PD	Tactical
56	4/30/2024	Randolph	Search for Wanted Subject	Y	Randolph PD	Tactical
57	5/13/2024	Swanton	Mapping for crash	N	N/A	CRT
58	5/9/2024	South Hero	Mapping/Photos for Murder-Suicide	N	N/A	CSST
59	5/14/2024	Saint Johnsbury	Mapping of homicide scene	Y	St. J PD	CSST
60	5/16/2024	Richmond	SAR Missing Person	Y	Hinesburg PD	SAR
61	5/17/2024	Cambridge	Crash Mapping	N	N/A	CRT
62	5/17/2024	Highgate	Missing Person	N	N/A	SAR
63	5/21/2024	Thetford	Missing Person	Y	Upper Valley EMS	SAR
64	5/9/2024	Mendon	Crash Mapping	N	N/A	CRT
65	5/28/2024	Sudbury	Search of Vehicle in Otter Creek	N	N/A	SAR
66	5/23/2024	Middlebury	Missing Person	Y	Middlebury PD	SAR
67	5/9/2024	Springfield	TSU search warrant	Y	Springfield PD	Tactical

68	6/3/2024	Colchester	Mapped Scene of Fatal Crash	Y	Colchester PD	CRT
69	6/7/2024	St. Albans Town	Mapped scene of crash	Y	Franklin County SD	CRT
70	6/7/2024	Barnet	SAR Missing person	N	N/A	SAR
71	6/10/2024	Rutland City	Warrant for barricade suspect	Y	Rutland City Police	Tactical
72	6/12/2024	Orange	Mapping Officer Involved Shooting	N	N/A	CSST
73	6/11/2024	Pittsford	Fire Scene Documentation	N	N/A	BCI
74	6/10/2024	Winooski	Fire Scene Documentation	N	N/A	BCI
75	6/8/2024	St Johnsbury	Fire Scene Documentation	N	N/A	BCI
76	6/13/2024	Williamstown	TSU search warrant	N	N/A	Tactical
77	6/14/2024	St. Albans	TSU search warrant	Y	St. Albans PD	Tactical
78	6/16/2024	Coventry	Search for suspects following shooting	N	N/A	Tactical
79	6/14/2024	Highgate	Search for missing person	N	N/A	SAR
80	6/14/2024	Derby	Fire Scene Documentation	N	N/A	BCI
81	6/18/2024	Springfield	TSU search warrant	N	N/A	Tactical
82	6/18/2024	Barnet	SAR Missing Person	N	N/A	SAR
83	6/18/2024	Barre	CSST Assist to Barre City BCI	Y	Barre City	CSST
84	6/13/2024	Hinesburg	TSU assist for Hinesburg PD - Canceled enroute	Y	Hinesburg PD	Tactical
85	6/9/2024	Marshfield	SAR for missing elderly male	N	N/A	SAR
86	6/21/2024	Hartford	SAR to look for possible suicidal subject	Y	Hartford PD	SAR
87	6/24/2024	Williamstown	Search warrant service	N	N/A	Tactical
88	6/26/2024	Middlesex	Mapped scene of crash	Y	VT DMV	CRT
89	6/27/2024	Montpelier	Mapped scene of fatal crash	N	N/A	CRT
90	6/28/2024	Enosburgh	Mapped scene of Injury Crash	N	N/A	CRT
91	6/27/2024	Swanton	TSU activation for wanted subject	N	N/A	Tactical
92	7/5/2024	Barre	Fire Scene Documentation	N	N/A	BCI
93	7/6/2024	Middlesex	Fire Scene Documentation	N	N/A	BCI
94	7/7/2024	St. Johnsbury	Homicide Mapping	A	ST J PD	CSST
95	7/9/2024	Washington	Search warrant service	N	N/A	Tactical
96	7/10/2024	Montgomery	TSU activation for wanted subject	N	N/A	Tactical
97	7/10/2024	Lyndonville	Fire Scene Documentation	N	N/A	BCI
98	7/16/2024	Ferrisburgh	Mapped scene of Crash incident	Y	DMV	CRT
99	7/17/2024	Enosburgh	Missing Person	N	N/A	SAR
100	7/18/2024	South Hero	Mapped scene of fatal crash	N	N/A	CRT
101	7/18/2024	Highgate	Mapped scene of fatal crash	N	N/A	CRT
102	7/18/2024	Enosburgh	SAR	N	N/A	SAR
103	7/19/2024	Enosburgh	SAR	N	N/A	SAR
104	7/22/2024	Rochester	Mapped scene of SBI crash	N	N/A	CRT
105	7/23/2024	Colchester	Flight for HAZMAT Film	Y	HAZMAT	Other
106	7/24/2024	Troy	TSU search warrant	N	N/A	Tactical
107	7/25/2024	Waterbury	TSU search warrant	N	N/A	Tactical
108	7/28/2024	Middlesex	Mapped scene of fatal crash	N	N/A	CRT
109	7/18/2024	Enosburgh	Mapping of residence for homicide	N	N/A	CSST
110	7/19/2024	Enosburgh	Mapping of residence for homicide	N	N/A	CSST
111	7/21/2024	Enosburgh	Mapping of scene homicide	N	N/A	CSST
112	7/24/2024	Morrisville	Manual photos for homicide	Y	Morrisville PD	CSST
113	8/8/2024	Morrisville	URT	Y	Morrisville PD	SAR
114	8/9/2024	Williston	Mapped scene of fatal crash	Y	Williston	CRT
115	7/15/2024	East Burke	Mapped Officer Involved Shooting Scene	N	N/A	CSST
116	8/10/2024	Bradford	Overhead Photos of Crime Scene	N	N/A	CSST
117	8/13/2024	East Burke	Mapped Officer Involved Shooting Scene	N	N/A	CSST
118	8/14/2024	Warren	URT Recovery	N	N/A	SAR
119	8/16/2024	Whitingham	URT Recovery	Y	Bennington PD	SAR
120	8/21/2024	Huntington	TSU search warrant	N	N/A	Tactical
121	8/22/2024	Georgia	Barricade / Wanted Subject	N	N/A	Tactical
122	8/24/2024	Shoreham	Motor Vehicle Crash Mapping	N	N/A	CRT
123	8/24/2024	Alburgh	Search for Wanted Subject	Y	FW	SAR
124	8/31/2024	Ryegate	TSU search warrant	Y	NHSP	Tactical
125	9/5/2024	Pownal	TSU search warrant	N	N/A	Tactical
126	9/11/2024	Rutland City	Mapped scene of SBI crash	Y	Rutland City	CRT
127	9/11/2024	Leicester	Mapped scene of possible fatal crash	N	N/A	CRT
128	9/18/2024	Rutland City	Wanted subject/condemned building	Y	Rutland City	Tactical
129	8/30/2024	Rutland City	Condemned building/trespassing	Y	Rutland City	Tactical
130	9/15/2024	Pawlet	Mapped Homicide Scene	N	N/A	CSST
131	9/20/2024	Rutland City	Mapped Shooting Scene	Y	Rutland City	CSST
132	9/27/2024	Craftsbury	SAR Missing Person	N	N/A	SAR
133	9/18/2024	Richford	Wanted Subject/Woods	N	N/A	Tactical
134	9/25/2024	Bradford	TSU search warrant	Y	Bradford PD	Tactical
135	9/29/2024	Swanton	SAR Welfare Check	N	N/A	SAR
136	10/1/2024	Williamstown	TSU search warrant	N	N/A	Tactical
137	10/2/2024	Pownal	TSU search warrant	N	N/A	Tactical

138	10/4/2024	Enosburgh	Crash Investigation	N	N/A	CRT
139	10/5/2024	Westford	Search for lost hunter	N	N/A	SAR
140	10/7/2024	Hardwick	Search for missing elderly subject	Y	Hardwick PD	SAR
141	10/4/2024	Enosburgh	Homicide	N	N/A	CSST
142	10/10/2024	Barnet	TSU search warrant	N	N/A	Tactical
143	10/6/2024	St. Johnsbury	Homicide Flight (Overhead Photographs)	N	N/A	CSST
144	10/6/2024	Enosburgh	SAR Missing Person	N	N/A	SAR
145	10/20/2024	Richford	Crash Investigation	N	N/A	CRT
146	10/18/2024	Orange	TSU search warrant	N	N/A	Tactical
147	10/14/2024	Waterbury	Overhead Photos of Crime Scene	N	N/A	CSST
148	2/16/2024	Hardwick	TSU search warrant	N	N/A	Tactical
149	10/24/2024	E Ryegate	CSST Officer Involved Shooting	Y	US Marshalls	CSST
150	10/25/2024	Huntington	Search for Wanted Person	N	N/A	Tactical
151	10/26/2024	Huntington	Search for Wanted Person	N	N/A	Tactical
152	3/14/2024	Stowe	Assist Stowe PD for subjects running from crash	Y	Stowe PD	SAR
153	6/12/2024	Orange	Search of Crime Scene	N	N/A	Tactical
154	8/25/2024	Williamstown	Crash Investigation	N	N/A	CRT
155	9/9/2024	Warren	Search for missing subject	N	N/A	SAR
156	10/25/2024	Burlington	Mapped scene of crash	Y	Burlington PD	CRT
157	10/27/2024	Barnard	Fire scene investigation	Y	Barnard FD	BCI
158	10/28/2024	Rutland City	Burglary/Building clearing	Y	Rutland City	Tactical
159	10/30/2024	St. Albans	Crash Investigation	Y	St. Albans PD	CRT
160	10/31/2024	Williamstown	Search for wanted person who fled car crash	Y	Berlin PD	Tactical
161	11/5/2024	Orange	Search for subject who fled	Y	Barre Town PD	Tactical
162	11/11/2024	South Burlington	Mapped scene of fatal crash	Y	South Burlington	CRT
163	11/14/2024	Woodbury	Crash Investigation	N	N/A	CRT
164	11/15/2024	Jericho	Missing Person	N	N/A	SAR
165	10/25/2024	Newfane	CSST Homicide/Suicide	N	N/A	CSST
166	11/15/2024	Montpelier	Montpelier Double Homicide	Y	Montpelier PD	CSST
167	11/17/2024	Rutland City	Rutland City Homicide	Y	Rutland City	CSST
168	11/3/2024	Castleton	Fire scene investigation	Y	Castleton PD	BCI
169	11/19/2024	Shelburne	Fire scene documentation	N	N/A	BCI

Department of Public Safety Report  
House and Senate Judiciary  
House and Senate Government Operations  
On  
2024 Vermont Law Enforcement Agency Drone Use

**Appendix (B) – Burlington Police Department UAS  
Activations 2024**

**Burlington Police**  
**Department**



**1 North Ave.**  
**Burlington, VT**

2024 Vermont Law Enforcement Agency Drone Use

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).*

- 1. In accordance with statute, Burlington Police Department submits the following 2024 law enforcement drone usage information: 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.**

- 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.**

- 4 criminal investigations aided including 1 arrest made. In each of these instances, a UAS was used to safely search for a suspect without putting officers unduly at risk.

**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.**

- In one instance a BPD UAS recorded video of the exterior of numerous residences in the vicinity of a high risk arrest. No private data was otherwise collected. A search warrant was obtained after the fact.

**4. The cost of the agency's drone program and the program's source of funding.**

In 2023 the Burlington Police Department used \$19627.53 for the creation of their UAV/ Drone Program. The source of funding was equitable sharing funds and general funds.

In 2024 the Burlington Police Department spent \$5703.26 in additional equipment. The source of the funding was general funds.

\*Attached: Appendix (A) –Burlington VT UAS Activations 2024



Burlington Police UAS Team Appendix (A)

UAS Activations 2024

#	Date	Location	Description of Incident	Assist Agency	Which Agency?	Classification	Information Collection
1	4/4/24	Waterfront Park, Burlington, VT	Search and rescue for missing person	No	N/A	SAR	No
2	4/8/24	Waterfront Park, Burlington, VT	Search and rescue for missing juvenile	No	N/A	SAR	No
3	4/24/24	Oakledge Park, Burlington, VT	Search and rescue for suicidal juvenile	No	N/A	SAR	No
4	5/12/24	54 Spruce St, Burlington, VT	Searching for aggravated domestic assault suspect	No	N/A	TAC	No
5	7/15/24	Elmwood Ave, Burlington, VT	Searching for high risk wanted suspect	Yes	USMS South Burlington PD	TAC	Yes
6	9/15/24	155 Dorset St, South Burlington, VT	Searching for high risk wanted suspect	Yes	South Burlington PD	TAC	No
7	10/30/24	86 Oak St, Burlington VT	Searching for high risk wanted suspect	No	N/A	TAC	No

Department of Public Safety Report  
House and Senate Judiciary  
House and Senate Government Operations  
On  
2024 Vermont Law Enforcement Agency Drone Use

**Appendix (C) – Middlebury Police Department UAS  
Activations 2024**

Department of Public Safety Report  
House and Senate Judiciary  
House and Senate Government Operations  
On

**2024 Middlebury Police Department Agency Drone Use**

This document serves as the 2024 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, Middlebury PD submits the following 2024 law enforcement drone usage information received from the Middlebury Police Department via the Vermont State Police UAS program:

- 1. The number of times Middlebury Police 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 Middlebury Police Department report deploying a drone 10 times in 2024:
    - Search and Rescue: 3
    - Criminal Investigations: 3
    - Public Safety: 2
    - Public Interest: 2

- See Appendix A attached, “*Middlebury PD - UAS Program – 2024 Deployments Summary*” and Appendix B, “*Middlebury PD – UAS Program – 2024 Deployment Forms*”, for type of incident involved, nature of information collected and reason for deployment as well as whether a warrant was sought/obtained.

**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 Middlebury Police Department used drones to support criminal investigations 3 times, with 2 of those deployments resulting in an arrest.
  - Middlebury Police Department drones were used to aid three criminal investigations by searching for subjects actively eluding police, with two such incidents involving suspects with active warrants for their arrest.
  - The use of Middlebury Police Department drones and the information gained by their use was never the sole basis for an arrest.
    - See Appendix A attached, “*Middlebury PD - UAS Program – 2024 Deployments Summary*” and Appendix B, “*Middlebury PD – UAS Program – 2024 Deployment Forms*”, for type of incident involved, nature of information collected and reason for deployment as well as whether a warrant was sought/obtained.

**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 Middlebury Police Department collected data, in the form of aerial photos (thermal & non-thermal), as part of their deployment on 3 incidents:
  - Criminal Investigations: 2
  - Search and Rescue (Plane Crash): 1\*  
*\*Aerial photos taken of plane crash to aid in locating crash site as well as related NTSB, FAA investigations*
  - See Appendix A attached, “*Middlebury PD - UAS Program – 2024 Deployments Summary*” and Appendix B, “*Middlebury PD – UAS Program – 2024 Deployment Forms*”, for type of incident involved, nature of information collected and reason for deployment as well as whether a warrant was sought/obtained.

#### 4. The cost of the agency's drone program and the program's source of funding.

- Middlebury PD UAS Program expenditures paid for using town funds include the following:
  - **Equipment:**
    - DJI Matrice 30T - \$9,821.00
    - TB30 Batteries (2<sup>nd</sup> set) - \$658.00
    - Other Miscellaneous Equipment - \$90.00
  - **Training:**
    - FAA "Part 107" Certificate Prep Course - \$299.00
  - **Certifications:**
    - Part 107 Certificates (two pilots) - \$350.00

**Total: \$11,218.00**

Notes:

All expenditures listed above paid for by the Town of Middlebury's general fund. A federal grant application which would be used to support UAS Program expenditures is pending.

Additional equipment expenditures, paid for with personal funds by our two drone pilots, were also utilized in 2024 deployments by the Middlebury PD UAS Program. Use of equipment owned by our two FAA certified pilots was a critical part of our program's initial implementation before departmental-owned equipment could be purchased.

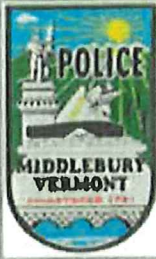
Expenditures by two FAA-certificated drone pilots include the following:

- **Equipment:**
  - DJI Mini 4 Pro (2) - \$2,568.00
  - Other Miscellaneous Equipment - \$258.50
- **Registrations:**
  - FAA Drone Registrations - \$15.00

**Total: \$2,841.50**

Appendix A "Middlebury PD - UAS Program – 2024 Deployments Summary"

Appendix B "Middlebury PD – UAS Program – 2024 Deployment Forms"



# MIDDLEBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT

## UAS Flight Mission Record

Flight Date: 5/3/24  
Incident #: 24MB001500  
Pilot: Hintereder  
UAS Used (Registration #): FA3LW44HL7  
Observer (If Applicable): N/A  
Shift Supervisor: Sgt. Austin; Approval Obtained:  Y  N  
UAS Program Manager Approval:  Y  N After Flight (Text message sent)  
Location/Address/Coordinates: Wright Park  
Flight Start: 09:36  
Flight Finish: 10:14 (all packed up)  
Total Flight Time: 30 minutes  
Pre-Flight Inspection Checklist Completed?  Y  N  
Warrant Requested?  Y  N  
Warrant Issued?  Y  N Court Issued: \_\_\_\_\_  
Arrest?  Y  N

Details: Drone deployment for purpose of public safety  
At around 9:18 am dispatch took a report of a male in camo was hunting  
on a trail with a rifle, using a turkey call. Potential Fish + Wildlife  
and public safety issue. violation

Information Collected:

Unable to locate male subject. Most likely left prior to arrival.

Notes:



## MIDDLEBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT

# UAS Flight Mission Record

**Flight Date:** 5/7/24

**Incident #:** 24MB001548

**Pilot:** Hinternerder (128)

**UAS Used (Registration #):** FA3LW44HL7

**Observer (If Applicable):** Harrington (112) / Sgt. Austin (124)

**Shift Supervisor:** Sgt. Austin; Approval Obtained: ( Yes )

**UAS Program Manager Approval:** Texted (118) and made aware of the situation ( Yes )

**Location/Address/Coordinates:** Up and downstream of the falls in downtown. Mill Street / Battell building (rear grassy area). 44.0136° N, 73.1690° W

**Flight Start:** 1<sup>st</sup> deployment - 10:57, 2<sup>nd</sup> deployment - 11:41

**Flight Finish:** 1<sup>st</sup> return 11:28, 2<sup>nd</sup> return 11:56

**Total Flight Time:** 44 minutes

**Pre-Flight Inspection Checklist Completed?** ( Yes )

**Warrant Requested?** ( No )

**Warrant Issued?** ( No ); Court Issued: N/A

**Arrest?** (No)

**Details:** Sgt. Austin and Officer Harrington requested a drone deployment to aid in the search for a homeless male, Kenneth Gilbert, who could have possibly fallen into the Otter Creek River last night. Mr. Gilbert was seen by a witness with his leg over the railing on the Cross Street Bridge and the homeless population told Officer Harrington this morning that they had not seen Mr. Gilbert.

The drone was deployed at 10:57 a.m. and a search of the river and banks downstream of the falls was completed without any findings. The drone completed this section of the search at 11:28 a.m.

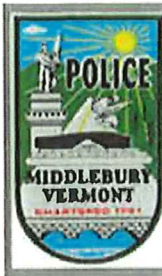
The drone was deployed again at 11:41 a.m. upstream of the falls and a search was conducted of the river and banks from the Cross Street Bridge to the falls with no further findings. The drone completed this section of the search at 11:56 a.m.

It was later learned Mr. Gilbert had been picked up by a family member and was brought for treatment at Valley Vista.

**Information Collected:** No information was collected in this search.

**Notes:** Wind speed NW 5 MPH.





# MIDDLEBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT

## UAS Flight Mission Record

Flight Date: 5/23/2024

Incident #: 24MB001823

Pilot: Ethan Jones

UAS Used (Registration #): FA3YK9YPLC

Observer (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Shift Supervisor: Casey Covey; Approval Obtained: ( Y / N )

UAS Program Manager Approval: ( Y / N )

Location/Address/Coordinates: Lat: 43.99263400 / Long: -73.15594500

Flight Start: (1) 21:55 // (2) 22:31

Flight Finish: (1) 22:17 // (2) 22:47

Total Flight Time: 66 Minutes

Pre-Flight Inspection Checklist Completed? ( Y / N )

Warrant Requested? ( Y / N )

Warrant Issued? ( Y / N ); Court Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrest? ( Y / N )

### Details:

On 5/23/2024, dispatch advised of an elderly male with late stage dementia had left the Lodge to go on a walk and had not returned to their facility. The male had a history of disorientation and confusion, and his cellphone and apple watch pinged to family his last location hours earlier at the edge of a field off of Meadow Glen Drive. Officers staged at a nearby roadway and activated resources to locate the male. Middlebury Fire activated, New England K-9, VSP troopers, VSP K-9, VSP thermal drone all activated and en route. While other resources were en route to the scene, I conducted two flights with my DJI Mini 4 Pro (no thermal) around the area of the last known cellphone ping, using cruiser lights and spotlights to illuminate the fields in the area. A fence line in a ravine at the ping location was inspected multiple times. Search primarily for obvious walking tracks/path in the tall grass, more easily observed by vehicle lights. At conclusion of both flights, drone packed away, and the elderly male emerged from a line of bushes in the search area. Male was evaluated by MREMS and released into the custody of his son.

### Information Collected:

Attempted to locate missing elderly male experiencing disorientation, confusion and effects of dementia.

### Notes:

None Applicable.





# MIDDLEBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT

## UAS Flight Mission Record

Flight Date: 7/10/2024

Incident #: 24MB002705

Pilot: Ethan Jones

UAS Used (Registration #): FA39HHH4HX

Observer (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Shift Supervisor: Casey Covey; Approval Obtained: (Y/N)

UAS Program Manager Approval: (Y/N)

Location/Address/Coordinates: Lat: 43.939737, -73.147645

Flight Start: (1) 19:28

Flight Finish: (1) 19:30

Total Flight Time: 2 minutes

Pre-Flight Inspection Checklist Completed? (Y/N)

Warrant Requested? (Y/N)

Warrant Issued? (Y/N); Court Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrest? (Y/N)

### Details:

With consent from the homeowner of 655 Columbus Smith Road, Salisbury, VT, the thermal drone was deployed above the property at a height of approximately 75 feet to evaluate the tree line surrounding the home. Search conducted to locate a male who fled from a felony traffic stop with officers from Middlebury PD and had multiple outstanding warrants. The surrounding tree line was cleared promptly in 2 minutes and the drone was removed from the air.

### Information Collected:

None Applicable.

### Notes:

Consent obtained by homeowner for drone deployment.



# MIDDLEBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT

## UAS Flight Mission Record

Flight Date: 7/14/2024  
Incident #: 24MB002760  
Pilot: Ethan Jones, Darrin Hinterner  
UAS Used (Registration #): FA3LW44HLZ, FA3YK9YPLC, FA39HHH4HX  
Observer (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
Shift Supervisor: Casey Covey; Approval Obtained: ( Y / N )  
UAS Program Manager Approval: ( Y / N )  
Location/Address/Coordinates: 44.02959238325195, -73.08853455929217  
Flight Start: Multiple deployments starting at 04:04  
Flight Finish: Multiple deployments ending at 06:48  
Total Flight Time: 74 minutes  
Pre-Flight Inspection Checklist Completed? ( Y / N )  
Warrant Requested? ( Y / N )  
Consent Obtained? ( Y / N )  
Warrant Issued? ( Y / N ); Court Issued: \_\_\_\_\_  
Arrest? ( Y / N ) **To Be Determined**

### Details:

Multiple deployments of thermal and non-thermal drones to locate and observe a truck/operator who fled from Middlebury PD officers responding to a call about a suspicious vehicle at the Abbey Pond Trailhead. Vehicle evaded police and drove through a locked gate entering the quarry, only to be cornered in the quarry. Both thermal and non-thermal drones were instrumental in clearing the abandoned truck as well as nearby structures, vehicles, and areas of concealment. Consent obtained from the owners of the quarry for images retained and for flight operation.

### Information Collected:

Thermal and non-thermal images of suspect vehicle.

### Notes:

Consent obtained by property owner for drone deployment and retention of images.

**Airspace:** Class G Airspace, No Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs)

**Time to initial drone deployment:** 1-2 minutes

### UAS System (Registration #) (Flight #): Start time – End Time (Duration)

**Thermal Drone** (Reg: H4HX) (1): 04:04-04:06 (2 minutes)\*

*\*Gimbal malfunction – Resolved by landing drone, restarting, and redeploying*

**Thermal Drone** (Reg: H4HX) (2): 04:07-04:27 (20 minutes)

**Thermal Drone** (Reg: H4HX) (3): 04:33-04:38 (5 minutes)

**Non-Thermal Drone** (Reg: YPLC) (1): 05:10-05:25 (15 minutes)

**Non-Thermal Drone** (Reg: 4HL7) (1): 05:38-~05:50 (12 minutes)

**Thermal Drone** (Reg:H4HX) (4): ~06:28-06:48 (20 minutes)

**Total Flight Time: 74 Minutes**



## MIDDLEBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT

# UAS Flight Mission Record

Flight Date: 8/4/2024

Incident #: 24MB003073

Pilot: Ethan Jones

UAS Used (Registration #): FA39HHH4HX

Observer (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Shift Supervisor: Casey Covey; Approval Obtained: (Y/N)

UAS Program Manager Approval: (Y/N)

Location/Address/Coordinates: 43°58'11.9"N 73°09'21.0"W

Flight Start: Multiple deployments starting at: 00:53

Flight Finish: Multiple deployments ending at 01:10

Total Flight Time: 17 minutes

Pre-Flight Inspection Checklist Completed? (Y/N)

Warrant Requested? (Y/N)

Consent Obtained? (Y/N)

Warrant Issued? (Y/N); Court Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrest? (Y/N)

### Details:

Report of a lost dog, elderly and blind, in a specific area of Creek Road near the Otter Creek. Owner of dog asked for deployment of thermal drone to rule out three large fields surrounding the last known location. Deployed UAS from Creek Road. One warm object was ruled out. Dog was not located.

### Information Collected:

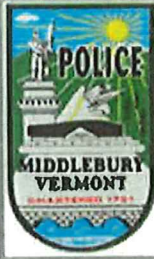
Thermal and non-thermal images warm object in field, later determined not to be dog.

### Notes:

Deployment from Creek Road (public roadway).

**Airspace:** Class G Airspace, No Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs)

**Time to initial drone deployment:** ~5 minutes



# MIDDLEBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT

## UAS Flight Mission Record

Flight Date: 9/7/2024  
Incident #: 24MB003605  
Pilot: Ethan Jones  
UAS Used (Registration #): FA39HHH4HX  
Observer (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
Shift Supervisor: Bill Austin; Approval Obtained: (Y / N)  
UAS Program Manager Approval: (Y / N)  
Location/Address/Coordinates: 44.016615660825686, -73.16055597782953  
Flight Start: 20:50  
Flight Finish: 21:04  
Total Flight Time: 14 minutes  
Pre-Flight Inspection Checklist Completed? (Y / N)  
Warrant Requested? (Y / N)  
Consent Obtained? (Y / N)  
Warrant Issued? (Y / N); Court Issued: \_\_\_\_\_  
Arrest? (Y / N)

### Details:

Report of a lost dog missing in the area of Washington Street and Seminary Street Extension. Multiple individuals on foot searching the immediate area. Thermal drone deployed with consent from homeowner at address where dog was last seen. One hot spot observed in the heavily wooded area behind the property, which was later shared with dog owners and searched.

### Information Collected:

None applicable.

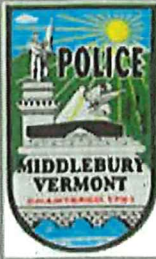
### Notes:

Drone deployed from property with consent from owner.

**Airspace:** Class G Airspace, No Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs)

**Time to initial drone deployment:** ~4 minutes





# MIDDLEBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT

## UAS Flight Mission Record

Flight Date: 9/8/2024  
Incident #: 24MB003632  
Pilot: Ethan Jones  
UAS Used (Registration #): FA39HHH4HX  
Observer (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
Shift Supervisor: Nathan Hayes; Approval Obtained: (Y/N)  
UAS Program Manager Approval: (Y/N)  
Location/Address/Coordinates: 44.188824 N, -73.357378 W  
Flight Start: ~23:50  
Flight Finish: 00:08  
Total Flight Time: ~ 18 minutes  
Pre-Flight Inspection Checklist Completed? (Y/N)  
Warrant Requested? (Y/N)  
Consent Obtained? (Y/N)  
Warrant Issued? (Y/N); Court Issued: \_\_\_\_\_  
Arrest? (Y/N)

### Details:

Assisting Vermont State Police (VSP) with thermal drone deployment to locate a passenger plane suspected of crashing after takeoff at the Basin Harbor Resort in Vergennes, VT. Search area encompassing entire golf course, adjacent agricultural fields and tree lines. Warm object observed in a tree line adjacent to grass runway, as well as apparent debris nearby. Generated GPS coordinates for foot search that subsequently located crashed plane and four deceased.

### Information Collected:

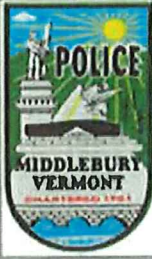
Two aerial thermal photographs of crash scene.

### Notes:

Flight start time not recorded. Estimated start time of 23:50.

**Airspace:** Class G Airspace, No Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs)

**Time to initial drone deployment:** ~4 minutes



# MIDDLEBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT

## UAS Flight Mission Record

Flight Date: 9/24/2024

Incident #: 24MB003822

Pilot: Darrin Hinterneder

UAS Used (Registration #): FA39HHH4HX

Observer (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Shift Supervisor: William Austin; Approval Obtained: (Y/N)

UAS Program Manager Approval: (Y/N)

Location/Address/Coordinates: Lat: 43.939737, -73.147645

Flight Start: (1) 17:16 (2) 17:40

Flight Finish: (1) 17:35 (2) 18:00

Total Flight Time: 49 minutes

Pre-Flight Inspection Checklist Completed? (Y/N)

Warrant Requested? (Y/N)

Warrant Issued? (Y/N); Court Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrest? (Y/N)

### Details:

Sgt. Austin, Officer Hudson, The Middlebury Fire Department and I responded to the Abbey Pond Trailhead in Middlebury, VT, for a report of a wildfire in the forest. Sgt. Austin and I located the remains of a campfire still smoldering which had ignited vegetation and traveled underground. The fire department began working on containing the fire in the area.

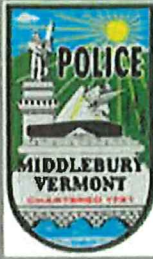
Sgt. Austin requested the thermal drone to be deployed above the area to see if there were any other areas of concern. The drone was flown at various heights to evaluate the surrounding area and did not locate any further problem areas.

### Information Collected:

None Applicable.

### Notes:

N/A



# MIDDLEBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT

## UAS Flight Mission Record

Flight Date: 10/1/2024

Incident #: 24MB003931

Pilot: Ethan Jones

UAS Used (Registration #): FA39HHH4HX

Observer (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Shift Supervisor: Casey Covey; Approval Obtained: (Y/N)

UAS Program Manager Approval: (Y/N)

Location/Address/Coordinates: (1) 44.01137245993834, -73.16845915314734

(2) 44.00175723088823, -73.16819367313371

(3) 44.00175723088823, -73.16819367313371

(4) 43.985828077510426, -73.16845615630746

Flight Start:

(1) 00:40

(2) 01:17

(3) 01:35

(4) 02:37

Flight Finish:

(1) 01:04

(2) 01:28

(3) 01:37

(4) 02:44

Total Flight Time: 44 minutes

Pre-Flight Inspection Checklist Completed? (Y/N)

Warrant Requested? (Y/N)

Consent Obtained? (Y/N)

Warrant Issued? (Y/N); Court Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrest? (Y/N)

### Details:

Officers attempted to locate a male fleeing law enforcement who had active warrants for his arrest. Multiple UAS deployments at three public locations to locate the male. Final UAS deployment above South Street Extension located the male hiding in tall grass near his broken down vehicle.

### Information Collected:

One aerial thermal photographs of subject hiding from law enforcement.

### Notes:

Flights occurred over public highways.

**Airspace:** Class G Airspace, No Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs)

**Time to initial drone deployment:** ~4 minutes



2024 Deployments

Incident #	Date	Drone Pilot	Call Type	Category (Crim, Pub Safety, Pub Interest)	Criminal Investigation	Non-Criminal Investigation	Warrant	Property Owner Consent	Arrest	Public Safety	Thermal Drone?	Duration (min)	Detail
24MB001500	5/3/2024	128	Municipal Ord Violation	Public Safety	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	30	Male having walk rifle on trail in Wright Park. Potential public safety concern, municipal violation, and PDA and Game Violation. Drone deployment aided officers in their attempt to safely locate vehicles. Negative contact. No warrant necessary. SAR 9 flight over public land (plain view exception).
24MB001548	5/7/2024	128	Welfare Check	SAR	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	44	River search of male possibly fallen into Otter Creek overnight. Drone deployed in two locations, upstream and downstream of falls. River and nearby banks inspected with no findings. Individual later reported safe by family. No warrant necessary due to flight over public land (plain view exception).
24MB001823	5/23/2024	118	Missing Person	SAR	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	66	Elderly male with one male dementia missing while on walk, primary search area of trail where doghouse and upper watch point last known location. Two deployments to search the area for male or obvious walking pathheads in tall grass. Area illuminated by vehicle lights and spotlights. Male later emerged from line of bushes in the primary search area. No warrant necessary due to flight over public roadway/land (plain view exception).
24MB002705	7/10/2024	118	Obstruction of Justice	Criminal Inv	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	2	Suspect who is a non-warrant identified and eluded law enforcement when they attempted to take him into custody. Consent search of residence conducted with consent of suspect's mother. Additionally, consent obtained to deploy the thermal drone to visually clear the surrounding fields and adjacent treelines. No warrant necessary due to consent for flight from property owner.
24MB002780	7/14/2024	118, 128	Suspicious Vehicle	Criminal Inv	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	74	Suspicious vehicle found at Abbey Road Trailhead. Locked from walking. Dred into adjacent valley. Drone abandoned trail and flew the area on foot. Thermal and non-thermal drones used to clear the vehicle, as well as surrounding areas of compliance. Suspect known to be violent and requires student law enforcement. Incident led to 8 criminal charges being filed against suspect. No warrant necessary due to consent for flight from property owner.
24MB003073	8/4/2024	118	Assist - Public	Public Interest	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	17	Report of a lost dog, safety and blind in a specific area of Creek Road near the Otter Creek. Consent of dog aided for deployment of thermal drone to take out the dog under circumstances that were not in the best interest of the dog. Dog was not located. No warrant necessary due to flight over public roadway/land (plain view exception).
24MB003605	9/7/2024	118	Animal Incident	Public Interest	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	14	Report of a lost dog remaining from the area of Washington Street and Serenity Street Extension. Multiple local calls for lost dogs in the immediate area. Thermal drone deployed from consent from the property owner. No warrant necessary due to consent for flight from property owner.
24MB003632	9/9/2024	118	Assist - Agency	SAR	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	18	Assist Warrant Drone Pilot (USP) with thermal drone deployment to locate a passenger plane suspected of crashing after takeoff at the Basin Harbor Resort in Virginia. "V" Search area encompassing entire golf course, adjacent fields and tree lines. Warm object obtained in a tree line, as well as apparent debris. Generated GPS coordinates for hot search that subsequently located crashed plane and four deceased. No warrant necessary due to consent obtained by property representatives (state of Basin Harbor Airport).
24MB003632	9/21/2024	128	Assist - Agency	Public Safety	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	49	Officers responded with the Middlebury Fire Department to the Abbey Road Trailhead following a report of a wildfire in the forest. Located the remnants of a campfire still smoldering, which had ignited vegetation and traveled underground. Thermal drone deployed to identify any other concerning areas nearby. No warrant necessary due to flight over public land (plain view exception).
24MB003931	10/1/2024	118	Suspicious Person	Criminal Inv	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	44	Officers attempted to locate a male fleeing law enforcement who had stolen warrants for his arrest. Multiple USAS deployments at three public locations to locate the male. Final USAS deployment above search area demonstrated the location of the building. All GPS coordinates were provided to the ground team. No warrant necessary due to flight over public roadway (plain view exception).



Department of Public Safety Report  
House and Senate Judiciary  
House and Senate Government Operations  
On  
2024 Vermont Law Enforcement Agency Drone Use

**Appendix (D) – Milton Police Department UAS Activations**  
**2024**

Department of Public Safety Report  
House and Senate Judiciary  
House and Senate Government Operations  
On  
2024 Milton Police Department Agency Drone Use

This document serves as the 2024 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, Milton PD submits the following 2024 law enforcement drone usage information received from the Milton Police Department via the Vermont State Police UAS program:

**1. The number of times Milton Police 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 Milton Police Department report deploying a drone 10 times in 2024.
- See Appendix A attached 'MPD UAS Deployment Record Sheet' for type of incident involved, nature of information collected and reason for deployment as well as whether a warrant was sought/obtained.

**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 Milton Police Department used drones to support criminal investigations 3 times with 2 times resulting in an arrest.
- Milton Police Department drones were used to aid investigations by searching for a wanted subject, supporting officers during a search warrant and during a standoff with an armed subject wanted for First Degree Aggravated Domestic Assault involving a firearm.
- The Milton Police Department used drones 7 times for Search and Rescue incidents.
- The use of Milton Police 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 Milton Police Department 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.**

- There were no equipment or upkeep expenditures during calendar year 2024.

*The initial startup funding for the Milton Police Department UAS Program including all equipment, was purchased using authorized forfeiture funds from the DEA asset forfeiture program in 2023. These program costs are listed below:*

*DJI Mavic 3 Thermal - \$5,604.30*

*DJI Mavic 3 Battery Kit - \$642.52*

*DJI Avata Public Safety Package - \$2,025.00*

*Total = \$8,271.82*

*Additional items purchased with Milton Police Department General Funds:*

*Spare Propellers for Avata - \$9.00*

*4x Aurora A1 flashlights for Avata - \$111.80*

*DJI Avata Flymore Battery Kit - \$279.00*

*Total = \$399.80*

*Grand Total = \$8671.62*



**Milton Police Department**  
**37 Bombardier Road**  
**Milton, VT 05468**  
**(802) 893-6171 Voice (802) 893-2424 Dispatch**  
**(802) 893-6032 Fax**



**\*\*Complete the following for each use of the sUAS. Briefly describe the nature and extent of 3<sup>rd</sup> party data which may have been collected during the course of any investigations. A full reading of the statute pertaining to reporting is included on the final page of this document. Record all required information for each incident under the call description section. A full report is not required for this document and can be referenced in the full incident report.\*\***

3. Date Incident # Call Type Warrant Obtained? Arrest? 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Data?  
 01-05-24 24MT000085 Search and Rescue Yes  No  Yes  No  Yes  No   
 Assist Agency? Which Agency?  
 Yes  No  Essex Police

**Brief Call Description and Outcome:**

Essex PD requested UAS search assistance for a 17 year old juvenile who had wiped his phone and left it at home, was reportedly suicidal and left on foot. It was unknown if he had overdosed, but had done so recently during a previous incident. Ambient temp 26F. Light Snow. Mavic was launched and conducted checks initially of the wooded areas surrounding the residence. About 20 min into the aerial search, the juvenile returned home from the direction of one of the nearby wooded areas.

\*\*\*\*\*

4. Date Incident # Call Type Warrant Obtained? Arrest? 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Data?  
 4-13-24 24MT001705 Welfare Check Yes  No  Yes  No  Yes  No   
 Assist Agency? Which Agency? N/A  
 Yes  No

**Brief Call Description and Outcome:**

MPD responded to a report of a male with a head laceration, bleeding heavily. The caller and witnesses on scene were unable/unwilling to describe how the injury occurred or where the patient was. One witness reported the male was last seen being followed or chased by another male into the wooded area behind Marty's Auto. Blood was found on the sidewalk near Marty's Auto where the subject was last seen. The UAS was used to search the wooded area where the injured person was last seen to ensure they had not succumbed to injuries in an area where they would not be located. The terrain was very inaccessible from the ground due to steep ravines and streams. Subject was not located in the wooded area, but was later located in regards to a separate case.

\*\*\*\*\*

5. Date Incident # Call Type Warrant Obtained? Arrest? 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Data?  
 5-17-24 24MT002269 Fugitive Search Yes  No  Yes  No  Yes  No   
 Assist Agency? Which Agency? CPD  
 Yes  No

**Brief Call Description and Outcome:**

MPD responded to assist CPD and F&G with a fugitive who had fled from wardens. The subject had multiple warrants for his arrest. The area was searched, however, the subject was not located. A warrant was applied for and granted.

\*\*\*\*\*

6. Date Incident # Call Type Warrant Obtained? Arrest? 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Data?  
 \_\_\_5-29-24\_\_\_ Search and Rescue \_\_\_ Yes  No  Yes  No  Yes  No   
 Assist Agency? Which Agency?  
 Yes  No

**Brief Call Description and Outcome:**

MPD responded to a juvenile that had walked away from the Middle School. Juvenile was last seen walking south on train tracks. Hasty search failed to locate her. Essex K9 and MPD UAS used. Essex K9 located juvenile in thick dense growth.

\*\*\*\*\*

7. Date Incident # Call Type Warrant Obtained? Arrest? 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Data?







**Milton Police Department**  
**37 Bombardier Road**  
**Milton, VT 05468**  
**(802) 893-6171 Voice (802) 893-2424 Dispatch**  
**(802) 893-6032 Fax**



Assist Agency? Which Agency?  
 Yes  No

**Brief Call Description and Outcome:**

MPD responded to a domestic assault where shots were fired and the victim fled the residence. MPD engaged in a multi-hour standoff with the armed assailant and utilized the drone to gain intelligence on the suspects location and overwatch on approach to take the subject into custody. A warrant was obtained post incident due to exigency.

\*\*\*\*\*

12. Date Incident #	Call Type	Warrant Obtained?	Arrest?	3rd Party Data?
10-28-24	24MT005265	Missing Juvenile	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Assist Agency?	Which Agency?	
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

**Brief Call Description and Outcome:**

UAS was used to check wooded areas behind residence after a suicidal juvenile left home. Cell ping was attempted and pinged in the area, however with a very wide radius (4miles). Due to cold weather, wooded area was checked as juvenile had previously stated he would attempt suicide by consuming bleach/cleaner. No recording and no heat signatures were observed in the wooded areas checked.

\*\*\*\*\*

13. Date Incident #	Call Type	Warrant Obtained?	Arrest?	3rd Party Data?
_____	_____	_____	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Assist Agency?	Which Agency?	
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

**Brief Call Description and Outcome:**

\*\*\*\*\*

14. Date Incident #	Call Type	Warrant Obtained?	Arrest?	3rd Party Data?
_____	_____	_____	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Assist Agency?	Which Agency?	
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

**Brief Call Description and Outcome:**

\*\*\*\*\*

15. Date Incident #	Call Type	Warrant Obtained?	Arrest?	3rd Party Data?
_____	_____	_____	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Assist Agency?	Which Agency?	
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

**Brief Call Description and Outcome:**

\*\*\*\*\*

16. Date Incident #	Call Type	Warrant Obtained?	Arrest?	3rd Party Data?
_____	_____	_____	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Assist Agency?	Which Agency?	
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

**Brief Call Description and Outcome:**

\*\*\*\*\*

17. Date Incident #	Call Type	Warrant Obtained?	Arrest?	3rd Party Data?
_____	_____	_____	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Assist Agency?	Which Agency?	
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		





**Milton Police Department**  
**37 Bombardier Road**  
**Milton, VT 05468**  
**(802) 893-6171 Voice (802) 893-2424 Dispatch**  
**(802) 893-6032 Fax**



Brief Call Description and Outcome:

\*\*\*\*\*

18. Date Incident #	Call Type	Warrant Obtained?	Arrest?	3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Data?
_____	_____	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Assist Agency?	Which Agency?	
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

Brief Call Description and Outcome:

\*\*\*\*\*

19. Date Incident #	Call Type	Warrant Obtained?	Arrest?	3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Data?
_____	_____	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Assist Agency?	Which Agency?	
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

Brief Call Description and Outcome:

\*\*\*\*\*

20. Date Incident #	Call Type	Warrant Obtained?	Arrest?	3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Data?
_____	_____	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Assist Agency?	Which Agency?	
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

Brief Call Description and Outcome:

• **Chapter 205 : Drones**

(Cite as: 20 V.S.A. § 4624)

• **§ 4624. Reports**

(a) On or before September 1 of each year, any law enforcement agency that has used a drone within the previous 12 months shall report the following information to the Department of Public Safety:

(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.



**Milton Police Department**  
**37 Bombardier Road**  
**Milton, VT 05468**  
**(802) 893-6171 Voice (802) 893-2424 Dispatch**  
**(802) 893-6032 Fax**



(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.

(b) On or before December 1 of each year that information is collected under subsection (a) of this section, the Department of Public Safety shall report the information to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Government Operations. (Added 2015, No. 169 (Adj. Sess.), § 2, eff. Oct. 1, 2016.)



Department of Public Safety Report  
House and Senate Judiciary  
House and Senate Government Operations  
On  
2024 Vermont Law Enforcement Agency Drone Use

**Appendix (E) – Hartford Police Department UAS  
Activations 2024**

# Hartford Police Department



## 2024 Vermont Law Enforcement Agency Drone Use

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, **HARTFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT** submits the following **2024** law enforcement drone usage 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.**
  - 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.

• 0

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.

• 1

4. The cost of the agency's drone program and the program's source of funding.

• \$4,000. The HPD program was started through a \$2000 grant from Walmart. The remaining funding came from the HPD operating budget.

\* Attached: Appendix (A) – Hartford Police Department UAS Activations 2024

Hartford PD UAS Team Appendix (A)

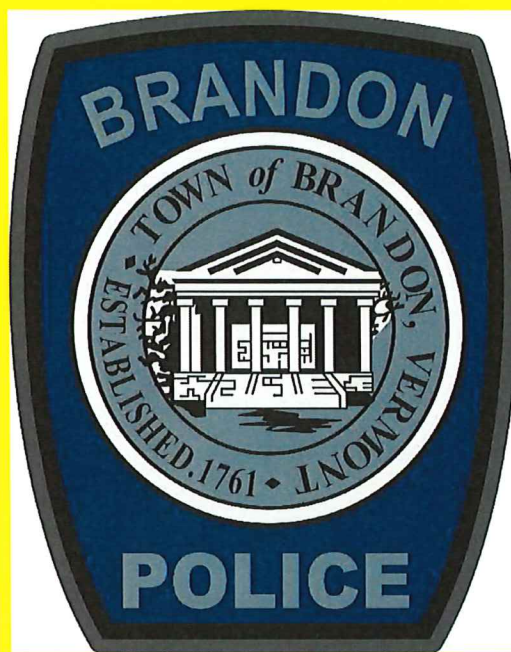
UAS Activations 2024

Number	Date	Location	Description of Incident	Assist Agency	Which Agency?	Classification
	<i>Date of use</i>	<i>location of flight</i>	<i>Brief description of use</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>	<i>Who was assisted</i>	<i>SAR/Crash/Tac/Evid/etc.</i>
1	5/17/2024	4330 Woodstock Road Hartford, VT	Area search for suicidal subject whose truck was located on parking lot. Check of truck and area	No	N/A	Tactical
2	5/24/2024	2680 Hartford Avenue Hartford, VT	Barricaded subject. Drone used to check second floor windows.	No	N/A	Tactical
3	5/24/2024	5968 Woodstock Road Hartford, VT	Check of Quechee Gorge Bridge construction for FD planning if incident occur.	Yes	Hartford FD	Other
4	6/17/2024	5968 Woodstock Road Hartford, VT	Check of Quechee Gorge Bridge construction for FD planning if incident occur.	Yes	Hartford FD	Other
5	9/4/2024	5968 Woodstock Road Hartford, VT	Check Quechee Gorge for missing subject out of Springfield, VT	Yes	Springfield, VT	SAR
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

Department of Public Safety Report  
House and Senate Judiciary  
House and Senate Government Operations  
On  
2024 Vermont Law Enforcement Agency Drone Use

**Appendix (F) – Brandon Police Department UAS Activations**  
**2024**

**Brandon Police**  
**Department**



**301 Forest Dale Road**  
**Brandon, VT. 05733**

**2024** Vermont Law Enforcement Agency Drone Use

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, **Brandon Police Department** submits the following **2024** law enforcement drone usage 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.**

- 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.**

- **ANSWER: 0**

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.**

- **ANSWER: 0**

4. **The cost of the agency's drone program and the program's source of funding.**

- **ANSWER: We purchased the drone for approximately \$400 and fund its use through our general operating budget.**

\*Attached: Appendix (A) – **Brandon Police Department** UAS Activations **2024**

**Brandon Police Department UAS Team Appendix (A)**

**UAS Activations 2024**

Number	Date	Location	Description of Incident	Assist Agency	Which Agency?	Classification
1	<i>Date of use</i>	<i>location of flight</i>	<i>brief description of use</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>	<i>Who was assisted</i>	<i>Crash/Tac/Evid/</i>
2	N/A	N/A	We have not used our drone for any law enforcement purposes in 2024	N/A	N/A	N/A
3						