

Counter Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Authorities

The mission of CISA's Infrastructure Security Division is to protect and secure critical infrastructure by managing risks from emerging threats. Under the Preventing Emerging Threats Act of 2018, certain DHS components have statutory authority to implement counter-UAS authority to protect facilities and assets from credible UAS threats (e.g., a UAS conducting prohibited surveillance and reconnaissance at a covered facility).

In order to keep stakeholders informed, CISA has developed a website on UAS security and response strategies, a Community of Interest on the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN-CI), and a fact sheet on the Department's legal authorities to protect a covered facility or asset and to ensure legal privacy protections from unlawful UAS activity.

- [Counter UAS Legal Authorities fact sheet](#)
- [Unmanned Aircraft Systems – Critical Infrastructure webpage](#)

The Department is also in the process of coordinating with other DHS Components and stakeholders regarding the need for additional counter-UAS authorities. For more information or questions on counter-UAS progress, email CUASinfo@hq.dhs.gov.

To join the HSIN-CI UAS Community of Interest, visit <https://hsin.dhs.gov/>. Membership is intended for individuals supporting the protection of the Nation's critical infrastructure.



Homeland Security

Counter Unmanned Aircraft Systems Legal Authorities

The Preventing Emerging Threats Act of 2018 grants the Department of Homeland Security statutory authority to counter credible threats from unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) to the safety or security of a covered facility or asset. This authority is paramount to the Department's mission to protect and secure the Homeland from evolving threats. The Department is in the process of coordinating with Components and stakeholders regarding the need for additional counter-UAS (CUAS) authorities.

Authorities

Authorized Department of Homeland Security Components may protect Covered Facilities and Assets from unlawful UAS activity with the following actions:



Detect, identify, monitor, and track the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.



Warn the operator of the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.



Disrupt control of the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.



Seize or exercise control of the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.



Seize or otherwise confiscate the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.



Use reasonable force to disable, damage, or destroy the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.

Covered Facility or Asset

Directly relate to the following missions:

Identified impacted airspace

An authorized Department of Homeland Security mission, including certain protection and security missions of:

- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- U.S. Secret Service
- Federal Protective Service

An authorized joint Department of Homeland Security or the Department of Justice mission

- National Special Security Events
- Special Event Assessment Rating events
- Supporting state, local, tribal, or territorial law enforcement at certain mass gatherings upon the request of a State's governor or equivalent
- Active Federal law enforcement investigations, emergency responses, or security operations in specified locations and for limited duration (e.g., airport disruption, disaster response, etc.)