

# Drone Pilot Field Checklists

Print double-sided, laminate, keep in your flight case. Run every section, every flight. The pilot who runs the list is the pilot whose insurance claim does not get denied.

## 1. Pre-Flight (at home / before leaving)

- ☐ [ ] Airspace check — B4UFLY, UASFM, current TFRs reviewed
- ☐ [ ] LAANC authorization or COA in hand if required
- ☐ [ ] Weather — wind, gusts, ceiling, visibility, precipitation, density altitude
- ☐ [ ] Sunrise / sunset times confirmed; civil twilight noted
- ☐ [ ] Aircraft registered, N-number on airframe, registration card with you
- ☐ [ ] Remote Pilot Certificate (or temp printout) with you
- ☐ [ ] Insurance certificate in vehicle / available digitally
- ☐ [ ] Batteries — aircraft, controller, tablet/phone all >80% and not puffed
- ☐ [ ] Props inspected — no nicks, no cracks, all hardware tight
- ☐ [ ] Firmware up to date; SD card formatted with space available
- ☐ [ ] Backup SD card and backup props packed
- ☐ [ ] Client contact name, phone, on-site point of contact saved
- ☐ [ ] Mission plan / shot list reviewed
- ☐ [ ] Mileage logged for start of trip

## 2. On-Site Arrival (before takeoff)

- ☐ [ ] Check in with client / site contact
- ☐ [ ] Identify and walk the takeoff and landing zones
- ☐ [ ] Identify nearest emergency landing alternates
- ☐ [ ] Identify hazards — power lines, trees, traffic, pedestrians, livestock
- ☐ [ ] Brief any non-crew on hold-points and where NOT to stand
- ☐ [ ] Visual Observer briefed if used; communication signals confirmed
- ☐ [ ] Local notice if appropriate (HOA, security, neighboring property)
- ☐ [ ] Re-check weather and airspace one more time
- ☐ [ ] Aircraft compass / IMU calibrated if controller prompts
- ☐ [ ] Home point confirmed and accurate
- ☐ [ ] Return-to-Home altitude set above tallest obstacle in flight path
- ☐ [ ] Confirm GPS lock ( $\geq 10$  satellites recommended) before takeoff

### 3. Post-Flight (before leaving site)

- [ ] Aircraft visually inspected — frame, gimbal, props, sensors
- [ ] Batteries to safe storage state per manufacturer guidance
- [ ] Data offloaded or SD cards bagged and labeled
- [ ] Flight log review (Airdata or DJI Fly) — any anomalies noted in writing
- [ ] Equipment packed and accounted for (count every prop, every battery)
- [ ] Client sign-off on scope completion (or note any gaps)
- [ ] Mileage logged for end of trip
- [ ] Site cleaned — no debris, no damage left behind

### 4. Incident Response (first 5 minutes after a crash, runaway, or near-miss)

Read once now, before you ever need it. Tape a shortened version inside your case lid.

- [ ] Secure the scene — keep people away from the aircraft / debris
- [ ] Render first aid if anyone is injured; call 911 if needed
- [ ] Stop the recording, but DO NOT delete any footage or logs
- [ ] Photograph the scene from multiple angles (aircraft, surroundings, damage)
- [ ] Identify witnesses; collect names and phone numbers
- [ ] Notify the property owner / client immediately
- [ ] Preserve flight logs — back up the SD card and controller data
- [ ] Check 14 CFR Part 830 reporting thresholds — NTSB notification within 10 days for serious injury, fatality, or substantial damage; FAA notification per 14 CFR 107.9 for >\$500 damage or any serious injury
- [ ] Notify your insurance carrier; do not admit fault on scene
- [ ] Document everything in writing the same day — memory degrades fast

References: 14 CFR Part 107 • 14 CFR Part 830 (NTSB) • FAA AC 107-2A • FAA DroneZone • B4UFLY • UAS Facility Map.