

DRONE MYTHS

BIGGEST MYTH - *I'm not charging for my services, so I am not regulated like professionals in the UAS (drone) business would be...* --- Flying a UAS related to ANY business activity or purpose, or simply while "on the clock" places you within ALL of the FAA regulations and restrictions for professional commercial UAS usage. You AND your employer will be liable in the event of an incident, or simply if you are reported for flying. The FAA has established fines of \$1100 for flight by a NON-certified pilot, plus fines of \$11,000 for hiring a NON-Certified pilot to fly for any business activity – **these are PER-FLIGHT fines!**

MYTH - *It's called a D-R-O-N-E!* --- Not really ... it is a UAS or Unmanned Aircraft System. Drone is not totally wrong, but (unfortunately) is more often associated with military use. A UAS Quadcopter is perhaps the most common UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle), utilizing 4 propellers. But the entire SYSTEM (all equipment hardware AND the FAA Certified UAS pilot, PLUS the Visual Observer) is where you should focus attention, since no single component can safely deliver success with remote aerial imaging.

MYTH - *The biggest potential problem is a possible crash, but I (probably) won't.* --- Yes, you probably will crash your UAV. And your fear should not be about IF you crash it, but INTO WHAT or WHOM you crash it.
- *Think about that.*

MYTH - *Drones are cheap to buy, easy to use, and ready to fly!* --- Cheap is a relative term; cheaper than buying an airplane, yes. But you should add-in several short-lifetime batteries, multi-chargers, insurance, pilot training & testing, pilot licensing fees, pilot learning curve, registration, insurance, ground spotters, logs and record-keeping, repairs ... the list goes on. Start at \$2000 for a working system [less than that if you want to crash it sooner], \$3-5000 is the LOW end for commercial systems.

MYTH - *Well, the cost is much lower than hiring an airplane or helicopter.* --- Helicopter - yes, cheaper than a helicopter. Airplane - nope, not necessarily lower, when you consider all expenses ... the cost is actually higher, if you are photographing multiple sites in a metro area; travel time alone is dramatically *reduced* in an airplane traveling 100mph across town! Time spent at any given location is much *longer* than shooting from an airplane or helicopter.

MYTH - *The rules are simple; stay below 400' and away from airports.* --- These are only TWO of the *myriad* of 'rules'. There are many NO FLY ZONES; **NO FLY**. There are 50' / 100' / 200' / 300' restricted UAS (drone) flight zones, and they can be anywhere, literally. Typically, you must stay FIVE-MILES away from all airports, but that also includes many other points, like medical heliports. Consider all of these spots on a map, and most of Kansas City is restricted airspace.

MYTH - *Drones are easy to fly, and most all the functions are automated.* --- Easy is also a relative term. They do NOT fly themselves. The complexity of the controls is far beyond a video game ... you must fly and monitor a number of critical functions simultaneously, while *keeping the UAS within your personal line-of-sight at all times*. Add wind & weather and you have a lot to deal with. Once you get your shots, they are in a raw, unedited format - all stills and video footage require Adobe Premiere or Photoshop skills to make them professional quality. Your work is only half done once you have captured the aerial images.

MYTH - *This is the end of the DRONE MYTH list.* --- Sorry, *this is only the beginning* ... there are countless applications to be realized for UAS in commercial environments, and much more to learn about regulations & skills required to use UAS successfully - and *safely*. Professional, registered UAS pilots have already done their homework, and will deliver a finished final product, without the hassles, at a reasonable cost.

Call our professional staff at **913-384-9369**, email contact@P-Tn.com, or Visit P-Tn.com to learn more.

