



Manned and Unmanned Aircraft Policy

Background

Element 11 welcomes and encourages artistic expression of all kinds, in keeping with our mission and the Ten Principles of the Burning Man project. In recent years, this has grown to include operation of manned, powered personal aircraft and varying types of remote controlled or autonomous unmanned hobby aircraft. These craft have provided participants with platforms to enjoy radical self expression, demonstrate the pilot's art, enjoy the beautiful scenery, and capture stunning images and video. In recent years, these craft have also become regular fixtures in the skies over Element 11. Powered aircraft soaring in the skies above over Element 11 and the participants below can be a beautiful sight, but creates possible dangers and a great deal of responsibility for those undertaking those journeys. For this reason, we feel that the need for common safety rules and operating procedures is clear.

Aircraft Operations, Generally

For purposes of this policy, "Aircraft" will be understood to mean any type of manned or unmanned aerial vehicle or platform that may be commonly described as a/an remote-control, autonomous, semi-autonomous, or fly-by-wire unmanned aerial vehicle or ultralight, power-glider, paraglider, or other name. Regardless of the type of aircraft you plan to operate, the responsibility to possess the proper equipment and operate an aircraft in a manner that does not create any undue hardship, heightened potential for a catastrophic accident, or interfere with event operations **is entirely your own**. Powered flight (manned or unmanned) has obvious risks, and creates the responsibility on the part of the pilot to manage those risks.

General Rules

If you plan to operate any type of an aircraft at Element 11, we expect you to do the following:

1. Know and comply with existing State and Federal law, as well as all applicable FAA rules for the type of aircraft you wish to operate.
2. Have the capability to maintain contact with Ranger shift leads (AKA "Khaki") at all times during your flight. The methods for doing this will vary depending on the specific type of aircraft you wish to operate.
3. Check in with the Ranger shift lead before taking flight and complete a preflight clearance checklist.



Preflight Checks

The Ranger lead (Khaki) will check the following items prior to clearing you for flight:

Pilot physical condition:	Pilot is well rested and 100% stone cold Sober
Aircraft Condition:	Vehicle appears to be in sound condition and not leaking fluids or dropping parts
Communications:	Pilot has proper and functional radio gear and headset (Powered/manned aircraft)
OR	Pilot is aware of visual signaling methods in case of emergency / other need to clear airspace
Airspace:	Pilot is aware of areas not to be overflown by powered/manner craft and large UAVs
Altitude:	Pilot is aware of applicable altitude restrictions based on the type of craft they wish to fly
Days and Hours:	Pilot is aware of restrictions on flight based on date/time
General rules:	Pilot is aware of and agrees to comply with all applicable laws/rules listed in this policy

The Ranger lead must clear you for takeoff. Clearance is at the sole discretion of the Ranger lead and is not up for discussion. No Clearances will be granted during severe weather.

Manned Aircraft

Manned aircraft, with human cargo and large amounts of fuel, present a significant impact on Element 11. This includes increased noise levels, flammable fuels, and the danger of a catastrophic accident. Element 11 wishes to manage all of these risks, which could result in injury or death to pilots and those on the ground, as best we can. In order to keep our event a safe and enjoyable place for all, Element 11 requires those participants who wish to operate powered, manned aircraft (such as an ultralight, power-glider, paraglider, or similar craft) to comply with the following additional rules:

1. Communications: You must be in possession of the proper communications equipment to maintain contact with Ranger shift leads (AKA "Khaki") at all times during your flight. This includes a headset/earpiece/microphone combination that will function in a high noise environment and/or an awareness of where to look for colored smoke signals. Element 11 will not provide this equipment. It is your responsibility to have it before flight. Further information on the needed items can be had by contacting Rangers or the BOD.
2. Time: Flight plans will only be cleared to fly between 8am to 8pm. Previously cleared flights must be on the ground by 8pm MST. (subject to change on site)

3. Overflights: You will not overfly ANY portion of the city, or come within 150 feet of any portion thereof, with exception of declared emergency landings.
4. Directions: You will rapidly comply with any directions provided to you by Ranger leads or members of the Board of Directors, especially in the event that a medical helicopter is called.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones)

If you plan to operate any remote-control, autonomous, semi-autonomous, or fly-by-wire unmanned aerial craft, the following additional rules apply:

1. Prior to launching your drone, you must check in with the Ranger Lead (Khaki) at Ranger HQ if your device has the capacity for a continuous flight time of more than 10 minutes. They will direct you to operate your device from a particular area, so they can reach you in case it becomes necessary to clear our airspace for an emergency helicopter to approach and land.
2. If your device is capable of recording images, remember that the same standards of ethics and consent apply to remote aerial photography as to any other type. If you are using your camera in a non-consensual manner, you may be removed from the event.
3. Drones may not be flown within 100 feet (in any direction) of a fire perimeter.

Violations of this policy are regarded as severe and will trigger the eviction process.

Content Updated: 2022-03-08 [JM]