



NEWS RELEASE

Los Padres National Forest
For Immediate Release
Contact: Andrew Madsen (805) 961-5759
Twitter: [@LosPadresNF](https://twitter.com/LosPadresNF)

Private Drones Pose Risk to Rey Firefighters

GOLETA, CA, August 31, 2016... Los Padres National Forest officials are reminding the public of the danger posed to firefighters in the air and on the ground by private Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), or drones. A press conference on drones was held last month at the Santa Maria Air Tanker Base to raise public awareness of the UAS risk to air tanker and helicopter pilots through the "If You Fly, We Can't" campaign.

A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) was issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the airspace in and around the Rey Fire to protect pilots flying suppression-support operations. In spite of the TFR, there have been three recent incidents involving privately owned drones over the Rey Fire. Although in each instance there was no impact on aviation operations, two of those incursions resulted in evidence collection and citations. Two of these incidents occurred near Lake Cachuma and one occurred along E. Camino Cielo.

Temporary Flight Restrictions are issued by the Federal Aviation Administration and are often granted to Fire Management Teams to help protect pilots and other fire personnel using the airspace above and around a fire.

"B4UFLY" is an easy-to-use smartphone app that allows drone operators to immediately determine whether there are any restrictions or requirements in effect at the location where they intend to fly. For more information on "B4UFLY" go to https://www.faa.gov/uas/where_to_fly/b4ufly/ and to better understand the rules regulating the operation of drones visit <http://www.faa.gov/uas> and for a drone awareness video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wg0LBGwv59s>.

###