3 DANGERS OF DO IT YOURSELF DRONE OPERATION



CONVERGENCE ENTERPRISES
DRONE SERVICES

3 DANGERS OF "Do-It-Yourself" Drone Operation

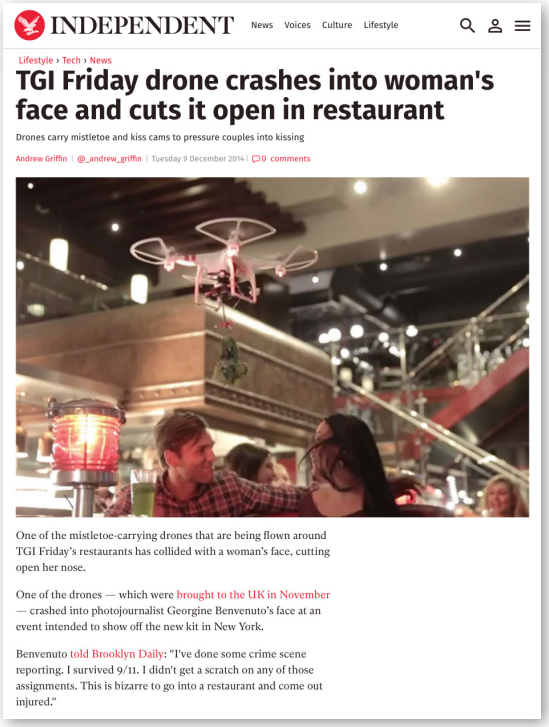
If you have a need to use *aerial photography* or *aerial videography* for your business or other commercial project, you may have considered simply buying a drone and ***doing-it-yourself*** (DIY). While this is technically possible and in some cases, even affordable, there are at least 3 major dangers you must consider before taking on such a serious responsibility:

DANGER # 1 - Difficult Learning Curve

Although it might seem easy to fly and use a drone to capture excellent videos and photos, the truth is that *there is a significant learning curve*. Even licensed commercial airline pilots have trouble flying drones (because it is a completely different experience from flying an airplane). And although drone manufacturers have made the process easier and safer, they have also added tons of new features and functions, making it more difficult and cumbersome for new users to maximize the potential of their drones.

The Internet is loaded with examples of new drone users crashing their drones and destroying their investments—since manufacturers' warranties do not cover crashes.

Additionally, many new drone users crash their drones and destroy property and even cause harm or injury to other people, bringing about the possibility of lawsuits and other legal problems. A simple search on YouTube for "drone crashes" should be enough to make even the most ardent do-it-yourselfer leery of using their own drone for commercial or professional projects.



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TGI Friday drone crashes into woman's face and cuts it open in restaurant

Drones carry mistletoe and kiss cams to pressure couples into kissing

Andrew Griffin | @_andrew_griffin | Tuesday 9 December 2014 | 10 comments

One of the mistletoe-carrying drones that are being flown around TGI Friday's restaurants has collided with a woman's face, cutting open her nose.

One of the drones — which were brought to the UK in November — crashed into photojournalist Georgine Benvenuto's face at an event intended to show off the new kit in New York.

Benvenuto told Brooklyn Daily: "I've done some crime scene reporting. I survived 9/11. I didn't get a scratch on any of those assignments. This is bizarre to go into a restaurant and come out injured."

Casual drone users have unfortunately caused injury to both people and property.

Danger # 2 - Major Liabilities

As mentioned before, if you are not trained or experienced in the proper use of drones, it is possible to bring about some major liabilities of your business. Crashing your drone and damaging somebody else's personal property can result in a lawsuit against your business.

Furthermore, it is likely that your existing insurance policy does not cover accidents caused by drone use. Therefore, you could be ***personally liable*** for any damage caused by a drone crash or malfunction.

And even "experienced" drone operators who have flown drones as a hobby, often get into trouble while flying drones professionally, because they are not familiar with the hazards of flying drones in a professional environment that requires more skill and precision.

A common example of this is when hobbyist drone operators attempt to fly a drone too high or too far and lose the drone because of radio interference, dying batteries, or poorly calculated flight time due to the jet-stream. These types of problems are eliminated when you hire a professional drone operator, like those trained in the Sky Eye Network.

Todd Proffitt is a certified and trained member of the Sky Eye Network.

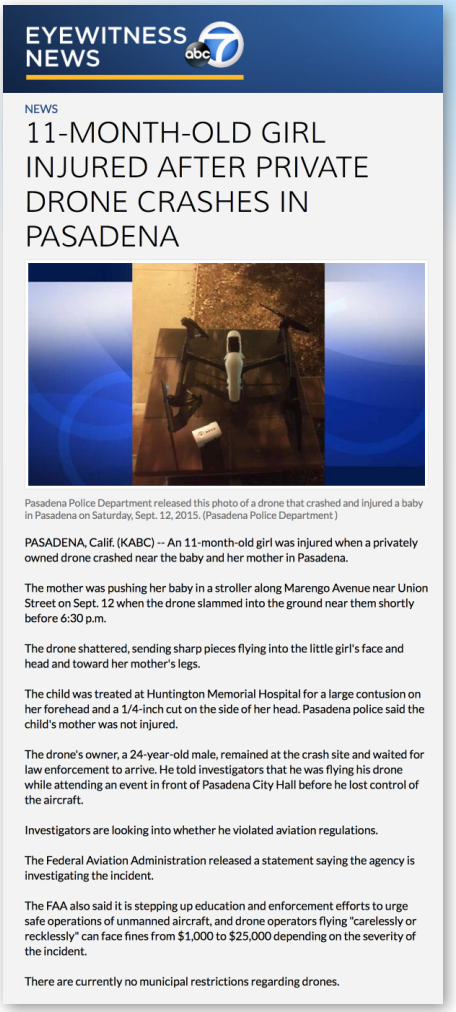
DANGER # 3 - Non Compliance with Laws

As the private commercial drone industry is just now emerging, Federal and State laws are having a hard time keeping up with the technology. As such, there is a lot of confusion and a lot of potential headaches and legal problems you could endure.

The Federal Aviation Administration has issued Section 107 of the FAA code to regulate the commercial use of drones and nearly all "Do-It-Yourself" drone operators are in violation of this code.

Furthermore, local and state laws regarding privacy and legal flying zones are often violated by inexperienced drone operators. You do not want to be on the cover of your local newspaper or evening television news report because of a legal non-compliance issue that you were simply not aware of.

The laws for drone operation are always changing, being challenged, and also being updated. Only professional drone operators who fly drones for a living are close enough to the industry to be on top of all the new laws and regulations that affect them. *It is wisest to simply use a professional and certified drone operator to ensure compliance with all applicable laws.*



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NEWS

11-MONTH-OLD GIRL INJURED AFTER PRIVATE DRONE CRASHES IN PASADENA

Pasadena Police Department released this photo of a drone that crashed and injured a baby in Pasadena on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015. (Pasadena Police Department)

PASADENA, Calif. (KABC) -- An 11-month-old girl was injured when a privately owned drone crashed near the baby and her mother in Pasadena.

The mother was pushing her baby in a stroller along Marengo Avenue near Union Street on Sept. 12 when the drone slammed into the ground near them shortly before 6:30 p.m.

The drone shattered, sending sharp pieces flying into the little girl's face and head and toward her mother's legs.

The child was treated at Huntington Memorial Hospital for a large contusion on her forehead and a 1/4-inch cut on the side of her head. Pasadena police said the child's mother was not injured.

The drone's owner, a 24-year-old male, remained at the crash site and waited for law enforcement to arrive. He told investigators that he was flying his drone while attending an event in front of Pasadena City Hall before he lost control of the aircraft.

Investigators are looking into whether he violated aviation regulations.

The Federal Aviation Administration released a statement saying the agency is investigating the incident.

The FAA also said it is stepping up education and enforcement efforts to urge safe operations of unmanned aircraft, and drone operators flying "carelessly or recklessly" can face fines from $1,000 to $25,000 depending on the severity of the incident.

There are currently no municipal restrictions regarding drones.

You can avoid being featured in a News Report like this one by simply hiring a professional Drone Operator.

Just like anybody can buy a camera or use their smartphone to take a picture—but only a true professional photographer who has experience and training in both the nature of professional photography, and the proper use of professional photography equipment, can actually produce consistent professional photographic results—so it is with drones. Only a true professional and ***Certified Drone Operator*** can produce the consistent professional results you want for your project, while avoiding liabilities, and protecting you from dangerous lawsuits and legal non-compliance issues.

When you're ready for professional Aerial Videography or Aerial Photography, call Convergence Enterprises Drone Services.