



INDUSTRY

SAFETY ALERT

Drone flight results in confrontation with home owner

Date: November 2024

Details:

A forestry mapping crew arrived at the worksite in the morning and began setting up for the day's first drone flight. Shortly after takeoff, a gunshot was heard followed by a second one several seconds later. The drone operator immediately stopped the flight and safely landed the vehicle.

As the workers were packing up, an individual approached aggressively from a nearby residence. One of the workers attempted to engage the individual calmly, but the homeowner became confrontational, threatening to shoot down the drone if it flew near their property again.

The homeowner became physically aggressive, moving close to one of the workers. In response, that worker raised their hand to create distance, gently pushing the individual back. The homeowner twice attempted to strike the worker but missed, then made a threatening remark before returning to their residence.

Follow-Up Actions:

The residence the individual returned to was identified before the crew packed up and left the scene, verifying the worker was unharmed.

Upon reaching cell reception, The workers called their manager to report the incident and then continued their planned drone flights for the day. After completing the day's work, the incident was reported to the RCMP.

Learnings & Suggestions:

- *Timely Reporting to Authorities* - If an altercation or event requiring police involvement occurs, it is vital to report the incident immediately after reaching a safe location. Prompt reporting ensures a quick response from authorities and helps protect the safety of workers and the public.
- *Ensure Advance Communication with Property Owners* - Some drone operations, even when compliant with legal airspace and property regulations, may be perceived differently by property owners. Transparent communication provides an opportunity to address questions or concerns proactively and fosters positive community relations.



BC Forest Safety

Unit 8C - 2220 Bowen Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9S 1H9
Toll Free: 1.877.741.1060 | bcforestsafe.org