

DISTRICT 4 UAS FIELD UTILIZATION

District 4 Maintenance and Geotechnical Services have partnered to establish a UAS program. This program enhances safety, reduces costs and creates efficiencies utilizing UAS technology.

This partnership provides a strong foundation to train Caltrans District 4 Employees in the safe operation of UAS within the operating right of way. Instructors from both divisions partner to ensure candidates have adequate knowledge of statutes, regulations, laws, policies, and procedures. Candidates are also trained and evaluated in the hands-on operation of UAS utilizing Division of Aeronautics Guidelines.

Safety is enhanced by utilizing the UAS in environments that present hazards to employees or are difficult to access. Accessing steep cut slopes, structures, spill sites, biohazards or accident scenes can be done from a safe distance with little or no employee exposure.

UAS create efficiencies as a pilot and visual observer can deploy quickly from a distance and provide high resolution information in the case of a natural disaster or crash. In many cases this can be done prior to mobilizing California Highway Patrol and maintenance resources for hard closures or physical inspections. We can then distribute this information to externals so decisions can be made efficiently without the need for travel.

There are cost savings associated with training maintenance and geotechnical employees in lieu of utilizing contractors. Much of what we are doing to enhance safety has the added benefit of reducing costs. Assessing sites without C.H.P., hard closure crews or mobilizing large groups to assess areas with limited access reduces cost and exposure.

We are realizing new ways to leverage this technology for safety reducing exposure with the added benefits of efficiency and cost savings daily.

