



PRESS RELEASE
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Air Show Organizers Ask Public to ‘Leave Your Drone at Home’

Proliferation of privately owned unmanned systems raises safety concerns at air show venue

Idaho Falls, ID – Leave the flying to the professionals. That’s the message coming from the Extreme Blue Thunder Air Show out of concern for spectator safety and the safety of air show pilots who will fly hundreds of performances all over the country.

Carrying forward and supporting the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) “No Drone Zone,” “Leave Your Drone at Home,” and “Know Before You Fly” initiatives, organizers of the Extreme Blue Thunder Air Show and the International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) want spectators and those at the Idaho Falls Regional Airport and surrounding area to understand that flying an unmanned aircraft in unauthorized air space is not just illegal, but unnecessarily puts people at risk.

The show will stop immediately if a drone takes flight at the airport or within the air show’s temporary flight restriction that extends seven nautical miles from the Idaho Falls Regional Airport. “All show attendees are subject to search. If drones or other prohibited items are found in your possession, you will be asked to return the items to your car or dispose of them,” states Eric Nield, security director for the air show.

“First and foremost is our spectators’ safety. They are our friends, neighbors, co-workers and relatives. We take the ‘no drone zone’ very seriously,” said Russell Johnson, chairman of the Idaho Falls Air Show Board of Directors. “Our performers are some of the best in the business and they require total concentration and precision while flying. The distraction a drone can cause could have disastrous consequences.”

The FAA in recent months has sent out a clear message that operating drones around airplanes and helicopters is dangerous and illegal. Unauthorized operators may be subject to stiff fines and criminal charges, including possible jail time.

“We want everyone at the Idaho Falls Air Show to enjoy their experience without having to worry about the consequences of a drone-related accident,” said Johnson. “Please, leave the flying and photography to the professionals and come see the air show in person.”

The FAA is leading a public outreach campaign to promote safe and responsible use of unmanned aircraft systems and offers a [digital toolkit with downloadable outreach materials](#) to federal, state, and other partners to educate unmanned aircraft operators that flying in certain areas is prohibited. A mobile app developed by the FAA called B4UFLY is also available to download, and provides real-time updates on current drone flight restrictions.

About the Extreme Blue Thunder Air Show

The 2017 Extreme Blue Thunder Air Show will be held at the Idaho Falls Regional Airport on Skyline Drive on July 22 & 23. The show features the U.S. Navy’s Blue Angels and the U.S. Air Force’s F-35 Heritage Flight Team accompanied by the P-51 Mustang.

Ticket prices from June 1-July 21 are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children. Tickets will be available at the gate for \$30 for adults and \$15 for children. Children (ages 5 & under) are free.

Tickets are available [online](#). Tickets can also be purchased with cash or credit card at all Westmark Credit Union locations. Pricing for tickets purchased at Westmark will be identical to the prices available online. After operating costs, proceeds from the air show will be donated to local non-profit organizations.

Each ticket is good for one day, either July 22 or July 23, but not both days. Gates open at 9 a.m. on both days. Static displays, vendors and merchandizing will be available throughout the day. The show concludes around 4:30 p.m. To ensure everyone can view the performance, the air show will be an open-seating environment.

[Extreme Blue Thunder Air Show Website](#). Follow us on [Facebook!](#)



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