



Drone Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PIO Matt Concialdi, Platteville Gilcrest Fire Protection District
202 Main Street, PO Box 407
Platteville, CO 80651

Platteville and Gilcrest, CO (4/2/2025) The Platteville Gilcrest Fire Protection District has developed a drone response team. Each of the drone pilots have completed a 40 hour flight training program plus passed a grueling Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) pilot examination. To go along with the initial training and credentialing, each drone pilot must log training flight hours to maintain pilot proficiency when weather allows. To gain this flight proficiency and comfortability with the drone operations, the pilots will be performing training flights around the stations in both Platteville and Gilcrest.

Our pilots follow strict FAA guidelines regarding flight elevation and where the drone can fly over. PGFPD developed the drone program as a specialized incident command tool that will provide enhanced visualization on large and complex incidents. The aerial images that are captured by the drone will help identify any hazards or safety concerns not seen on the ground so that the incident commander can make educated tactical decisions. As we enter spring and summer seasons, you may notice our drones flying near an active incident. We ask that other drone operators in the area respect the airspace per FAA regulations and the incident we are managing.

“We are very excited to have a drone program at Platteville Gilcrest Fire! Drones equipped with cameras and sensors can not only help to rapidly assess disaster areas, but also provide critical information to first responders and facilitate faster, more effective rescue efforts. The drone program is another asset that helps us provide the best emergency service possible for our community.” says Fire District Chief Dan Durkee.

If you see our drone flying over and around one of our stations, please know we are conducting training flights. Feel free to call our district office with any questions you may have about the drone training flight.

For further questions or inquiries, please contact Division Chief Matt Concialdi PIO at mconcialdi@pgfpd.org, 720-597-5883 (cell), or 970-817-4219 (Office).

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