



# Drone as First Responder

## RPIC Reference Card - Phases of Operation

### 1. Operations Planning

**Understand the type of mission** (call for service, special events, search and rescue, barricaded subject, etc.)

**Understand the type of environment** (outdoor/indoor, day/night, weather conditions, air traffic, visual obstructions)

**Prepare for mission objectives** (providing overwatch and information to officers on the ground, clearing low priority calls, clearing high-risk indoor or enclosed spaces)

**Consider data capture and sharing requirements** (ensure you are following your organization's protocol on data capture and ReadyLink distribution)

**Check weather and airspace restrictions** (including TFRs)

### 2. System Initialization

**Ensure Flight System is charged, up to date, and ready for flight**

**Ensure the optimal Sensor Package and Attachments are installed** (for Dock for X10 operations, your system is likely already configured, but you may have multiple flight systems to choose from)

**Check media integrations** (ensure data is flowing to any integrations such as evidence.com)

**Perform preflight inspection** (ensure navigation cameras are clean, ensure propellers, arms, chassis, are not damaged, see preflight inspection for full details)

**Check flight settings** (see reference cards for: flying at night, flying in precipitation)

### 3. Pre-shift

**Identify roles and responsibilities** (identify who is involved in the operation and brief the crew on their responsibilities)

**Establish lines of communication with your crew** (complete any shift handoff or preshift brief)

**Crew resource management** (Use available resources, establish workload management strategies, coordinate to establish shared situational awareness)

### 4. Preflight

**Re-check weather and airspace as needed** (and ensure weather remains within operating limits of the drone)

**Notify your crew that the flight is about to begin** (ensure flight crew are prepared for launch/mission)

**Establish safe launch/land area** (and ensure it remains clear and free from any people/obstacles)

### 5. In Flight

**Execute on mission objectives** (providing overwatch, streaming ReadyLink, communicating with a subject, sharing critical information with officers on the ground)

**Execute organization's communication protocol** (refer to your organization's best practices/policy)

**Maintain spatial awareness** (ADS-B air traffic, weather, any changing conditions)

**Monitor System Health** (VIO, GPS, Battery, connectivity, etc.)

**Be ready for contingencies** (See the contingency chart)

### 6. Postflight

**Ensure media and data flow begins** (If landing in the Dock, Media Sync will begin automatically)

**Post-flight Inspection** (perform a visual inspection and ensure the drone is ready for next operational use)

**Follow your organization's best practices on flight logging or flight documentation** (if additional flight logging is required)

Note: Your organization may define other phases or procedures not defined here. These phases of operation provided here are recommendations only. Always follow your organization's safe use policy and standard operating procedures.