

PRESS RELEASE



Lawrence Township Police Department

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DRONE ACTIVITY

Recently, there has been an increase in drone sightings in New Jersey, including here in Lawrence Township. Chief Longo and the members of the Lawrence Township Police Department are aware of the drone sightings and understand community concerns relating to their presence.

Members of both the Township and LTPD leadership have been in contact with Federal and State law enforcement agencies and participate in regular collaborative briefings regarding the drone sightings. The latest information received, confirms that the origin of the drone activity remains unknown.

A growing concern amongst law enforcement agencies is vigilante action taken by citizens attempting to take down drone aircraft. This action can result in severe negative outcomes, especially if the aircraft is actually manned. There are regular reports of drone activity that are confirmed to be FAA approved manned aircraft, such as helicopters and airplanes. **NO RESIDENT SHOULD TAKE ACTION TO INTERCEPT ANY AIRCRAFT.**

If a resident does encounter a downed drone, the aircraft should be treated as evidence. **DO NOT** touch or approach the aircraft, and dial 9-1-1 immediately. The Lawrence Township Police Department has a response plan in place should there be any type of interaction with a downed drone in Lawrence Township.

If quality videos or photos are captured, residents are asked to upload them directly to the FBI at: <https://tips.fbi.gov/> under the "Other FBI Crimes" tab.

Drone sightings can also be reported to the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324).

If drones are observed flying near or interfering with a critical infrastructure, please dial 9-1-1 and report the activity immediately.

When LTPD obtains additional information from our law enforcement partners, it will be shared with our community. It is important that only factual information be shared. Residents should feel free to contact the Lawrence Township Police Department at 609-896-1111 with non-emergency concerns.