

# SPOTTER/OBSERVER RESPONSIBILITIES

## Why you are so important

While flying a drone the Remotely Piloted Aircraft's (RPA) pilot is responsible for paying close attention to flying and avoiding any nearby obstacles that are stationary. In these situations it is easy to be suddenly surprised by an occasional bird flying close by. Moving objects like birds and aircraft are more difficult to detect because a human's **field of vision and point of focus is somewhat limited**. The RPA pilot is fixated on the drone and its flight path, which makes it impossible for them to also scan the full 360 degrees of sky for any objects that may impact on the flight. Therefore it is essential to have someone else present who can focus on visually clearing the area of sky to the left, right, above, and behind the drone.

## What to expect

Not all spotters are created equal! Your RPA pilot should not expect you to know what to do unless they've worked with you before. Ensure the pilot gives you a safety briefing before they fly and discuss what they expect you to do.

## Your role as a Spotter/Observer

As the spotter/observer you should **not** be persistently staring directly at the drone during the extent of the flight. A spotter's job is to be aware of the location and directional path of the drone, while constantly scanning the rest of the sky for potential dangers that might cause a safety issue for the RPA pilot. This entails scanning 360 degrees of the entire skyline and surrounding areas, and being close enough to communicate verbally with the RPA Pilot in Command (PIC). A good spotter will help maintain safety on every flight.

## Your Responsibilities

**Priority 1:** Immediately alert the RPA pilot in command of any approaching aircraft, people, animals, vehicles, boats, etc., that have the potential to adversely impact the operation

**Priority 2:** Listen & watch out for any aircraft and helicopters entering the flight area

**Priority 3:** Watch out for and stop people approaching and distracting the RPA pilot

**Priority 4:** Watch out for and attempt to stop people or animals approaching the operational area nearer than 30m

I have read and understand my responsibilities as a crew member of the RPA/drone operations team

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