



Prepared by the Security & Hazardous Materials Safety Organization (ASH)

## Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Unannounced Missile Launches

On 05 June 2022, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) conducted a series of unannounced missile launches, firing a volley of eight short-range ballistic missiles, from multiple launch sites into the Sea of Japan. The missile trajectories and impacts remained within the Pyongyang Flight Information Region (FIR) (ZK KP), according to media reporting. As with prior missile test launches, the DPRK did not issue warnings prior to the missile activity. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) already prohibits U.S. civil aviation from operating in the entirety of the Pyongyang FIR, which mitigates risk.

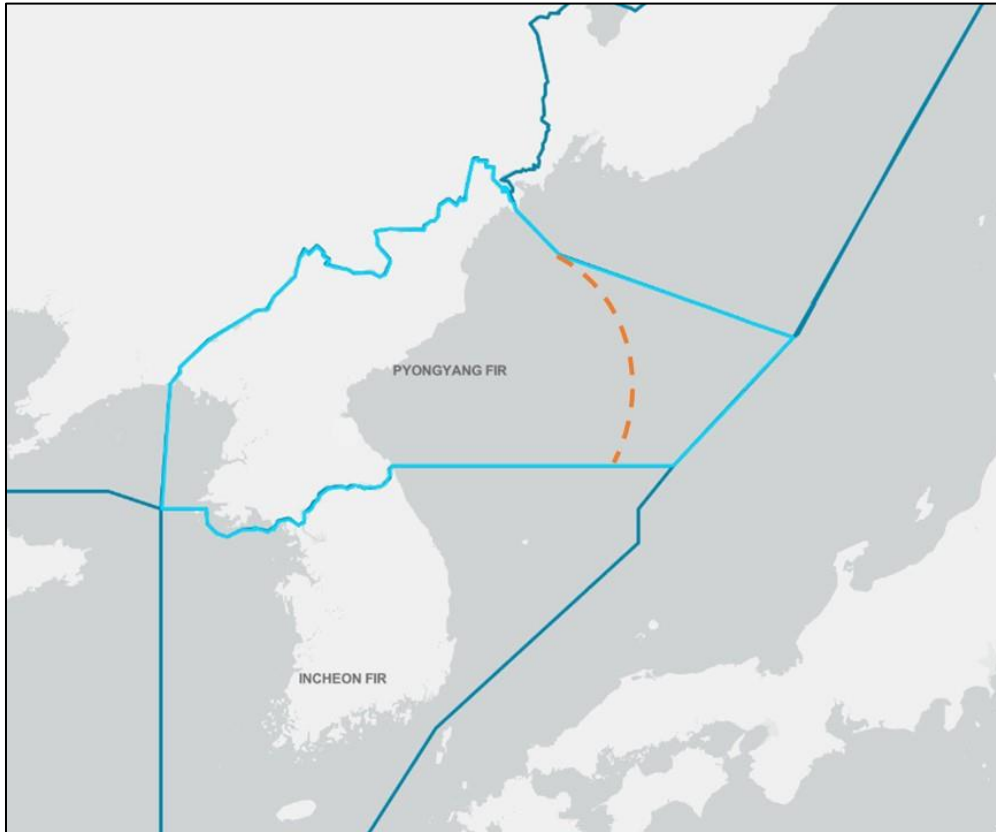
**The DPRK's failure to provide advance warning of missile test launches presents an enduring safety hazard to civil aviation and maritime operations in the region. Continued unannounced DPRK missile tests over the near-term are likely. Civil air operators should maintain close communication with air traffic control (ATC) and follow ATC instructions.**

During 2022, the DPRK has conducted numerous missile test launches for a variety of missile systems as part of its strategic weapons development program. DPRK missile tests have included, short-range, intercontinental, sea-launched, and hyper-glide vehicle launches. The DPRK has now conducted 33 ballistic missile launches in 2022, the most in any year since 25 launches in all of 2019. The most recent previous DPRK missile test launch occurred on 25 May, when the DPRK launched three missiles. Further DPRK missile test launches are likely, some of which could travel beyond the Pyongyang FIR boundaries and into adjacent airspace due to the increased range and sophistication of weapon development.

The Federal Aviation Administration's Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) No. 79, 14 C.F.R. § 91.1615, prohibits U.S. civil aviation from operating in the entirety of the Pyongyang FIR due to the risk to U.S. civil flight operations posed by the DPRK's military capabilities and activities, including, but not limited to, unannounced missile launches. Weapons tests and effects confined within the Pyongyang FIR should not affect U.S. operators, but foreign civil aircraft operating in the Pyongyang FIR may be exposed to risks from DPRK weapons test activity.

Copies of all FAA-issued flight prohibition SFARs, flight prohibition Notices-to-Air-Missions (NOTAMs), and advisory NOTAMs are available on FAA's Prohibitions, Restrictions, and Notices website at: [http://www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/publications/us\\_restrictions/](http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/us_restrictions/).

**This information is provided for situational awareness only.**



**Graphic representation of open source reporting on the 05 June DPRK launches showing potential range (orange dashed line). Graphic is not for navigational purposes.**

If there are any questions, please contact the FAA Threat Analysis Division at 202-267-3203 or [FAA-Watch@faa.gov](mailto:FAA-Watch@faa.gov).

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