

Wales Center Volunteer Fire Co., Inc.

Standard Operating Procedure: Thermal Imaging Camera

GENERAL

1. Fire contains various forms of heat, gases and smoke. A thermal imaging camera detects heat in degrees.
2. Firefighters must maintain an acceptable level of competence when using a thermal imaging camera.
3. Firefighters must be able to determine heat levels and various objects while using a thermal imaging camera.

EQUIPMENT

1. The Camera provided is a Bullard T3 Max
2. The Camera is made of plastics and rubber
3. The Camera is equipped with a hand strap, coat clip, and shoulder harness.

INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

1. The Camera and all its components will be inspected monthly by a Chief or Captain of the Fire Company. If any deficiencies are found with the unit, it will be documented on the monthly inspection sheet, fixed or removed from service, and a chief officer will be notified.
2. To ensure the unit is ready for service, it will be cleaned, and the extra battery will be charged up after each use, including training.
3. After each use, the unit will be inspected for holes or tears in straps, and broken or missing parts. If needed, the unit will be taken out of service.
4. In addition, random checks will be made by the chief officer to ensure proper maintenance.
5. All components will be inspected every three years by a qualified technician, and all repairs will also be made by a qualified technician.

QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

Firefighters will be trained in proper use of the Thermal Imaging camera by a training officer or chief officer of the Wales Center Volunteer Fire Co., Inc. Proper training ensures the distinction of various degrees of heat and distinction between people and objects seen in a fire or heavy smoke conditions. To be trained to use the Camera, a firefighter must:

1. Not put themselves in harms way.
2. Show their abilities annually as follows:
 - 2.1. demonstrate their ability to turn the camera on and off;
 - 2.2. demonstrate their ability on how to operate the camera and all its features;
 - 2.3. demonstrate competency on all operations of the camera; and
 - 2.4. be instructed in maintenance and inspection of the Thermal Imaging Camera.

USE OF THE THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA

The Thermal Imaging Camera will be used but not limited to:

1. Interior house fire search applications
2. Wildland search and rescue applications
3. Chimney fires

4. Electrical fires
5. Car accidents when looking for an ejected person or persons

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