

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines
Fireground Operations

Fireground Operations, SOG 3.38

THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA

1. Intent and Purpose

To establish a guideline governing the most effective method for deploying a Thermal Imaging Camera(s).

2. Policy

It shall be the policy of UCFD's (if available) to utilize Thermal Imaging Camera(s) (TIC) in every structure fire and any other situation where it will enhance the safety of Fire Department personnel and aid in the location and rescue of victims.

3. Procedure

- a. The TIC should be utilized within a structure whenever the initial report is a possible fire regardless of initial size-up reports. Once the Company Officer decides the TIC is no longer needed it should be removed from the structure for the use of the RIT if needed.
- b. When operating in the "Rescue Mode" (Primary Search), company personnel shall use the TIC to aid in the search for victims.
- c. Command should be notified that the TIC is in use and transmitting (if equipped to do so). The transmitter (if available) should be on unless it would pose a hazard on the fire ground (i.e. explosive conditions). For ATFD/ MFD the default transmit channel is channel #1 (switch to channel #2 if there is interference).
- d. Personnel must understand that the TIC could fail and an escape route must easily be located, either by following a wall, hose line or rope tag line to safety. Keep in mind exit times in case of camera failure. The operator must inform his crew of escape routes and any other information he sees (i.e. doors, holes, windows, etc.).
- e. Using the TIC as the sole search tool may leave hidden area(s) unchecked. A hands-on approach should still be used. Conduct most of the travel inside a structure in the conventional method (without looking in the TIC) and just use the camera to do a quick visual check of the room to check for victims and heat.
- f. The TIC can also serve as a tool for detecting heat during overhaul. The TIC cannot penetrate most construction materials including drywall, plaster and lathe, concrete, glass, or plastic.
- g. **WARNING: DO NOT CHANGE** or take, Thermal Imaging Camera batteries into a hazard zone.