

SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

SOG #:	6.231	Effective Date:	7/14/2005
Title:	Thermal Imaging Camera Use & Care	# of pages:	2
Category:	Fire Ground Operatins	Classification:	Red

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide operating personnel with a standard guideline for the use and care of thermal imaging cameras.
2. **PROCEDURES:** During all Search and Rescue Operations, whether a structure fire, confined space, or other form of situation involving incapacitated individuals, the Incident Commander shall assign an individual to operate the thermal imaging camera to aid in the rapid discovery of possible savable victims, thus enhancing their removal from danger.

During incidents in which there is a possibility of hidden fire such as in chimney and/or partition fires, or other concealed spaces which fire may propagate within, the Incident Commander shall assign an individual to operate the thermal imaging camera to assist these operations to enable a speedy discovery and help reduce property damage.

If available the RIT team should be equipped with a Thermal Imaging Camera dedicated for its use. If all cameras are in use during an incident, when the RIT team is deployed a camera shall be made available to them at the earliest possible time.

During overhaul operations the Incident Commander shall assign an individual to operate the thermal imaging camera to assist in these operations. The main focus during this time should be whether or not hidden fire or hot spots exists, to aid in decision making as whether or not to open up, with the concentration based on preventing rekindle and reducing loss.

Operations of the thermal imaging cameras shall not be limited to the above. Use needs to be based on the situation and whether or not the use of the camera will assist in bringing the situation to a positive ending. Officers are fully encouraged to utilize the camera whenever the opportunity presents itself. Examples of such situations are determining liquid levels of tanks, searching for electrical smells within large area buildings, etc.

Care

The Company Captain shall institute a program to insure that the unit is thoroughly tested on at least a monthly basis. In addition, a separate program shall be instituted by the Company Captain to insure that the unit's batteries are in a fully charged, ready state at all times.

3. **REFERENCES:**
 - None

By Order Of:

Kevin W Guimond

Kevin W. Guimond
Fire Chief