

Maritime Public Safety

Introduction

With growing awareness of the safety and vulnerability of those boaters operating along our county's waterways, missions for public safety boats are expanding at a terrific rate. Officers crewing these vessels find themselves involved in missions as diverse as law enforcement, search and rescue, SCUBA operations, conducting harbor safety patrols, helping out disabled boaters, and lending a hand with homeland security missions.

These calls can come any time, and in any weather. Day and night, in good weather and bad, maritime public safety vessels like police boats, fireboats, and harbor patrol vessels need to be equipped to answer the call. By extending and expanding the utility of these craft, FLIR's maritime thermal imaging cameras have proven their worth day in and day out, year after year.

With a little information, it is easy to appreciate and understand the utility of thermal imaging cameras when deployed in a maritime law enforcement role. While the recreational boater realizes the basic advantages of using FLIR's thermal imagers – simply being able to see at night and in bad weather provides an undeniable measure of added safety to these mariners – the professional operator, however, gets much more far-reaching benefits from a maritime thermal imager.

Benefits to the Maritime Law Enforcement Operator

Thermal imaging cameras do things the human eye cannot. They see heat, and are therefore not dependant on light and contrast to create an image, working as well or better at night than they do during the day. And, they see their targets from much farther away than a person can. Simply put, for the maritime law enforcement mission, FLIR's thermal imaging camera is better than the human eye – day and night.

24-Hour Response Capability

FLIR's thermal imaging cameras see heat signatures given off by people and vessels in total darkness, as well as through smoke, haze, and light fog. This capability gives maritime safety officers the added margin of safety they need when responding to calls at night. They can navigate confidently, avoiding hazards to navigation like floating debris, outcroppings of land, docks, pilings, and boats riding at anchor.

Search and Rescue

Thermal imagers from FLIR are used all over the world in the maritime search and rescue role. A person floating in the water is often ONLY visible to a thermal imager, as the heat of their head renders them visible against the cooler water. This is as true at night as it is during the day, making them a crucial asset for true 24-hour response capability.

See Through Smoke

Thermal imaging cameras see heat sources through even dense smoke. This not only allows any maritime public safety officer to help fireboat crews by pinpointing the hottest areas of a fire, it also lets them more accurately attack that fire by precisely guiding their hoses to the blaze. Without a thermal imager, fire fighters have to apply water over a fire in a general manner and discern where the hot spots are by the fire's reaction to their attack. With a FLIR thermal imager, the guesswork is taken out of the equation, and fire fighters can apply water directly to the most problematic areas.

Safety

A FLIR thermal imaging camera lets officers see things at night that pose a threat to the safety of their vessel, her crew, and that of their fellow officers on shore. When operating close to shore, the FLIR gives officers improved situational awareness, as well as the ability to support land-based units when searching or operating in areas near waterways.

Why FLIR?

FLIR Systems is the largest commercial infrared company in the world. We have more people and more assets dedicated to helping law enforcement and public safety



FLIR's maritime thermal imagers let public safety vessels respond at night and in bad weather with greater degrees of safety than ever before.



FLIR's maritime thermal imagers help mariners navigate crowded waterways at night confidently and safely.

professionals do their job better and safer than anyone else. What's more, FLIR makes all of the critical parts of our thermal imaging cameras in-house, so we can build and service your products faster and with a higher level of expertise than any of our competitors. FLIR Systems are the thermal imaging experts, and the no-risk solution in the industry.

Conclusion

Thermal imaging cameras are vital pieces of equipment for maritime public safety and law enforcement. They expand the capabilities of police boats and their crews, while enhancing the safety of officer and vessel alike.



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