

## **INFRARED DETECTION**

**8693**

(1987)

Although comparatively new to the scene, Infra Red (IR) detection has proven its usefulness. Rapid surveillance is definitely needed following an outbreak of lightning strikes or during a forest closure in order to accurately locate small fires.

IR detection can be used successfully day or night. The imagery is not affected by dense smoke or smog. Some systems will not penetrate clouds or fog, however.

## **FORWARD LOOKING INFRA RED (FLIR)**

**8693.1**

(1987)

FLIR is a portable infra red scanner which is mounted on a helicopter and used as a search and navigation aid.

A sensing unit, placed on the outside of a helicopter, can penetrate smog and smoke and gives a good picture of the thermal conditions of the terrain below.

Two video monitors are placed inside the helicopter and display a black and white representation of the variations in temperature on the terrain. This picture exposes hot spots, tiny patches of fire, and any ignition sources that would normally go undetected if viewed with the naked eye.

The helicopter is also equipped with a video recorder. This device records the time and date of the taping, as well as the picture itself. The videotapes are brought back to the incident commander, who can then get a good idea of the fire conditions and the location of the fireline. Advanced units may have a ground receiver at the base camp so the pictures can be viewed live as they are taken.

For mapping purposes, more accurate results are achieved if a specially trained infra red interpreter is employed.

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[\(see next section\)](#)

[\(see Table of Contents\)](#)