

Tools of the Trade**Thermal Imaging Camera**

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I'm sure all paranormal investigators have heard of a Thermal Imaging Camera and even have seen it's used on TV shows such as Ghost Hunters and Ghost Adventures. Most teams want one and some have purchased one. They come in many shapes, sizes, models, and with various price tags. Most of which are too rich for my blood.

So what is a Thermal Imaging Camera? To answer that you must first define what Thermal Imaging is. Thermal imaging is a mechanism to improve visibility of objects in the dark by detecting the objects' infrared radiation. A Thermal Imaging Camera takes that detected infrared radiation and creates an image based on that information. Unlike infrared technology that we use, thermal imaging requires no ambient light. Additionally thermal imaging can penetrate obstacles such as smoke, fog and haze.

All objects give off (aka emit) infrared energy (heat) as a function of their temperature. The infrared radiation (heat) is also known as its heat signature. In general, the hotter an object is, the more radiation it emits. A thermal imaging camera essentially is a heat sensor that is capable of detecting differences in temperature. The device collects the infrared radiation from objects and creates an electronic image based on information about the temperature differences.

Thermal images are normally grayscale in nature. However, the newer Thermal Imaging Cameras add color to images to help users identify objects at different temperatures. Where the colors range from yellows/whites as the hottest and blues/blacks for the coldest.

Note: These cameras comes in models that take pictures and some that have video. For paranormal investigating the best option would be video based...since we never know when activity will happen and you might not be fast enough to capture it in a picture.

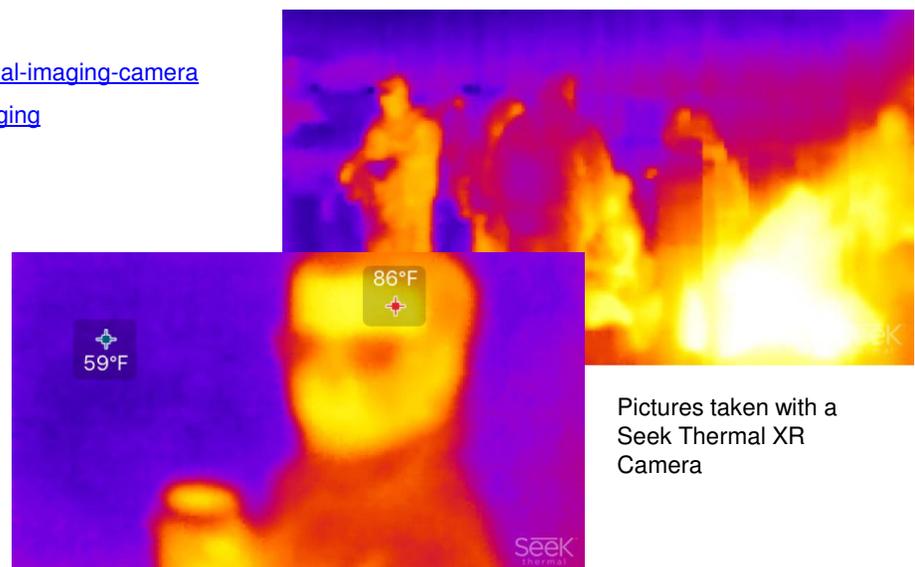
Other Resources:

<http://www.slideshare.net/carltrom/what-is-a-thermal-imaging-camera>

<http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/thermal-imaging>

<http://www.flir.co.uk/corporate/display/?id=41530>

<http://www.flir.co.uk/corporate/display/?id=41523>



Pictures taken with a Seek Thermal XR Camera