Bumps in the Night!!!!

Tools of the Trade

Camcorders with Night Vision

A tool that we use during an investigation is a handheld camcorder on a tripod. During an investigation we attempt to capture visual data that something paranormal exists and camcorders is one tool we used to do that.

There are main types and brands/models of camcorders used by paranormal teams. We at TnT Paranormal have Sony and JVC models, but have realized the Sony brand works best.

The most important feature that any camcorder needs, when used during an investigation, is one that can film in darkness or have night vision capabilities. We will discuss LUX technology a little more in a bit. Since most of a paranormal investigation is conducted in the dark this feature is the most critical by far.

Secondly, you must decide if you want one with an internal hard drive , DVD, or tape as the storage media. Again, which type is a preference and/or what you can afford. We like the ones with internal hard drives so that you don't have to swap out tapes or the DVD every 30 to 60 minutes. Also makes them easier to copy to other mediums or computers.

Even though we use the cameras with night vision technology we still use an external IR light so that we can capture images at a further distance. The standard camera can only tape at about 20 to 30 feet in the dark…with an external IR light you can extend that distance to 60+ feet depending on the light used.

So what is LUX? Per Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lux), LUX is the unit of measure of illuminance (light) in a given area. The simple way to put it is how much light is visibly present. In order to recorder video in the dark a camera should have a feature of 0 lux. This is a reason we like the Sony Handycam models.

With all devices there are positives and negatives. One negative we have found with a few of the camcorder cameras is that they are very sensitive and pick up a lot of airborne debris that other cameras, or the naked eye, will not. Some of the cameras will pick up these airborne particles and make them appear larger, more solid, and in some cases glowing. Thus resulting in data that has to be reviewed closer; when it is nothing more than dust. That is called a False Positive. An example of a camera brand that does this is the JVC with an external light. We have found a solution to this problem, but that is a topic for another article coming soon.

So with all technology know what you want and how you want to use it. Understanding the technology is key, so that you purchase the right tool for the job at hand.