



MIIA RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY

THERMOGRAPHY USE IN ELECTRICAL FIRE PREVENTION

MIIA recently suffered a large property loss involving fire at a member school. Although the final root cause of the loss is under investigation, the source of the fire was electrical in nature.

For a number of years, MIIA has advocated the use of thermographic cameras for inspectional use throughout member facilities. Thermographic cameras have many practical uses in the identification of potential sources of loss – water, heat loss, cold air intrusion and “hot spots” within electrical systems. These all show as thermal anomalies.

As the FY22 MIIA Grant & Rewards season is about to kick-off, we strongly encourage members to consider the use of thermography as a best practice within their property management efforts. Thermographic cameras are a popular Grant item which can be used to conduct thermographic inspections for which MIIA Rewards credit can be awarded.

In the electrical context, thermographic cameras allow for non-contact examination of electrical service panels and sub-panels to identify abnormal heat patterns or temperature differentials. These anomalies can be indicative of potential loss conditions such as loose connections, overloaded circuits, deteriorated insulation, or friction within panels.

It is important to note that any anomalies found should be brought to the attention of a licensed electrician qualified to work on the type of equipment in use. In some instances, an electrician may participate in the inspection process to provide insights and assistance. However, any corrective measures should only be undertaken by a licensed electrician following all OSHA standards and electrical safety codes.

We encourage you to explore thermography during this year's Grant & Rewards season. Your Risk Manager will be able to assist you in the Grant application process and on inspectional opportunities for Rewards credit.

The MIIA Risk Management Team

