



CASE STUDY

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (UAV)

**MINIMIZING CMIs*
AND LOWERING COST BY
HIRING A DRONE!**

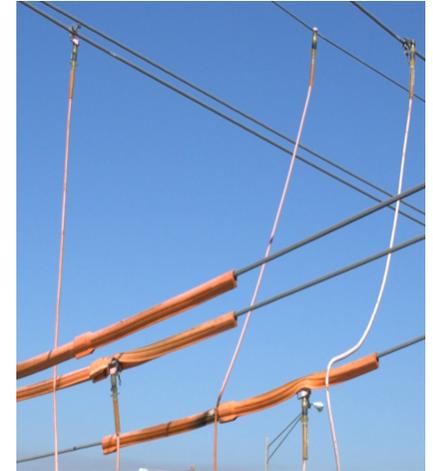
* Customer Minutes of Interruption

SUMMARY

When a breaker trips several times and a ground crew cannot determine where the fault lies – the result is unhappy customers without power. This happened with the Springtree feeder line. The utility decided to hire our aerial survey team. Instead of costly and dangerous helicopters, we use drones. With a 360° view and thermal image video, the fault was found and repaired quickly and safely.

THE SITUATION

A Florida utility had an issue with failures on a feeder line. Crews were sent out, but the ground inspection could not determine where the problem originated and which components were affected. Each time the breaker tripped it meant a 30 – 45 minute interruption in service for about 2000 residents. This happened several times, resulting in unhappy customers and rising CMIs. So this was a serious and urgent situation.



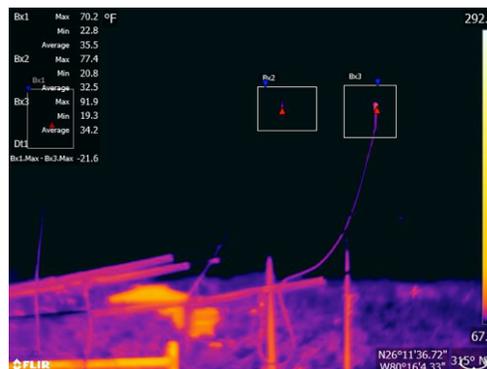
THE SOLUTION



The utility called Infratech Corporation because we offer a new aerial inspection service that can investigate all components of a line from any angle by way of HD and thermal imaging. Each Unmanned Aerial Vehicle system (UAV) has two operators: a Pilot in Control (PIC) who determines the flight path and a certified thermographer who monitors the live feed and controls the motion of the imager. The team determined very quickly that an improperly installed jumper caused intermittent arching and flashing, which in turn tripped the breaker. This could only be detected from above ground. The utility’s crews missed this fault, because it could not be seen or detected from below.

THE RESULT

The inspection took a couple of hours and a highly detailed report was submitted. It pinpointed the location of the faulty insulator to within inches. The utility’s crew was able to immediately replace the jumper and the customers had uninterrupted service again. Utilizing this aerial inspection service saves significant time and money, plus it is by far safer since no workers are put in harm’s way.



TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SOLUTIONS WE HAVE FOUND FOR COMPLEX CHALLENGES AND CRITICAL SAFETY ISSUES, CONTACT STEVE MITCHELL AT 770-826-2827 OR SMITCHELL@INFRATECHCORP.COM