

NEWARK FIRE DEPARTMENT, NEWARK NJ
Rescue Co #1 - Michael Lubertazzi, *Captain*



RE: Glo-Jo Helmet Band Evaluation
Sept 2009 to September 2011

September 30th, 2011

To whom it may concern,

For the last 24 months, a select tour of Rescue Co #1 was given the opportunity to evaluate and provide feedback on a visual aid / safety device called the Glo-Jo Helmet Band. With 25 years as a career firefighter, 10 of which being the Captain of Rescue Company #1; I have come across numerous lifesaving technologies. Admittedly my first impression of the Glo-Jo Helmet Band was cautiously optimistic. Within a year of the device being on our helmets and its use in a number of fires involving heavy smoke, my opinion quickly grew in favor of the device as useful tool to help identify those in my crew.

Newark Fire Department Rescue Company #1 is dispatched to all reports of fire in the City of Newark. During the period of evaluation, the members of my company were able to operate with the use of the Glo-Jo Helmet Band in at least seventy five (75) structural fires. Besides my own account of this devices effectiveness, the following observations were also noted:

FF Kevin Lowry, Member of NFD Rescue Company #1

"When it came to seeing my captain, the visibility of the device was excellent. I was able to clearly see him in the majority the of smoke conditions presented... it was assuring to know where he was at all times"

"The device helped to improve company integrity when working in various smoke conditions"

"Durability was not a problem; it stood up to the heat and was impact resistant after it had endured several ceiling collapses"

In summary, my field evaluation of the Glo-Jo Helmet Band strongly supports it as a useful layer of safety on the fire ground. Through my own observation this device not only improves visual awareness among members, but also enhances task coordination and confidence. It is my estimation that this device will continue to demonstrate significant safety benefits during a variety of rescue situations.

Sincerely,

Michael Lubertazzi, Captain
Newark Fire Dept - Rescue Co #1