

Date: Tue, 4 Mar 2008 13:32:20 -0500

The Bloomington Fire Dept (IN) recently evaluated the usefulness of the Glo-jo helmet band during live fire training for our recruit academy. We obtained 4 units used to identify instructional staff in our steel class "A" burn building. Over the course of 2 days and 10 burn evolutions, our instructors wore the helmet band so that students would be able to locate their instructors in a limited visibility environment. Temperatures during the evolutions ranged from 230 to 650 degrees Fahrenheit and visibility ranged from fair to very poor. Our recruits performed fire suppression and search and rescue training during the evaluations. In all but the absolute worst visibility conditions (unable to see 1-2ft in front of you) the helmet band was visible. In moderate smoke conditions, 2-3 feet from the floor, the helmet band was visible as far as 12 feet away. As conditions deteriorated, visibility of band diminished to around 5 feet. Our instructors set the band to blink mode to attract attention and conserve battery life. The units were in use approximately 6 hours a day for 2 days. Our department has been please with the overall performance of the band, and will continue to utilize it to identify instructors in our live fire training.

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"Better everyday..."