

# Orange Fire Department

City of Orange Fire Administration  
419 Central Avenue, Orange NJ 07050  
Essex County

February 15<sup>th</sup> 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

In the last two (2) years I have been using the Glo-Jo Helmet Band as an additional layer of personal safety, enabling greater visibility of myself while in the service of my duties as a member of the City of Orange Fire Department. Through my experiences with using this product I have found that the enhanced visibility benefits of this device have been extremely helpful, both during training exercises and while operating in "real" fire-ground incidences. The added benefit of being more effectively seen as a supervisor and / or as an instructor not only offers greater efficiency, but builds confidence; especially among those who rely on my direct supervision or instruction. Certainly from my perspective I also found an appreciation of being able to more easily see other members of my department utilizing this device thereby assuring a level of accountability of my crew and increased task coordination.

One noted field application of the Glo-Jo Helmet Band occurred in the late morning of September 6, 2008. All of our units were dispatched to a report of a commercial building fire; a three (3) story old mill-type construction / heavy timber. Upon arrival there was a thick black smoke condition aggressively pushing from a cock-loft vent just above the third floor. We gained entry from the rear of the structure and brought our lines up searching for fire. Visibility on the third floor was zero. In addition to the zero visibility conditions, there were complicating factors that challenged our access to areas involved with fire. Besides zero visibility, we were confronted with odd construction, limited egress, confined spaces, and open floor areas. Interestingly, of all of the members operating in this zero visibility environment, there was only two (2) individuals who were identified as being seen consistently during this interior operation. One of the two members was my self, and the other was my partner; as we were both equipped with the Glo-Jo Helmet Bands. I feel that the combination of challenges encountered in this fire were more safely negotiated with the application of the Glo-Jo Helmet Band. Maintaining visibility of your partner, not losing them, and coordinating our approach was key. I feel this was effectively achieved with the use of the Glo-Jo Helmet band and I highly recommend it as a useful tool to help save firefighters lives.

Captain Frank De Angelis