

# INNER CIRCLE FIRE TRAINING INC

## Increasing Visibility of Fire Ground Instructors



August 2009 - Inner Circle Fire Training Inc., a 501 (3) Non-Profit Company recently attended the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC 2009) to network and conduct product research for our company. As a hands-on based training company, we put our gear through the paces to say the least. Our classes span a wide range of scenarios, from operating in good visibility during exterior ladder operations, to near zero visibility in our live burn, flashover, and search training. One problem experienced is identifying instructors in these situations, as our reflective stripes are often obscured by smoke and over time lose their original reflectivity. This poses a safety hazard for our students and creates added stress when it comes to instructor accountability.

During our walk through of the FDIC Exhibition floor we came upon Creative Safety Concepts – CSC Group LLC / Glo-Jo Helmet Band's vendor location. At first, we were skeptical of this product and the claims that it could be seen in zero visibility smoke condition. Over the past years we have tried several products and have been somewhat critical of them to say the least. Many of these products just don't hold up under the severe field test(s) that we put them through. We immediately started handling the product and started to try to poke holes in the technology as any good firefighter would do, but Joe Gonzalez, the inventor of the Glo-Jo Helmet Band and career firefighter; covered nearly all of our concerns with the 2nd generation version of his product. Joe provided us with a few samples for field testing and we promised we would push them to the limit.

Inner Circle Fire Training conducted flash-over simulator training over a three day period with over 20 burns conducted, ranging from 20-30 minutes at a time in a Phase-1 Type Swede. The ceiling temp ranged from 400 Fahrenheit and rose to over 1000 Fahrenheit. Floor temps would reach 280 to 380 Fahrenheit, with flames directly impinging on our helmets intermittently throughout the evolution. The Glo-Jo Helmet Band stood up to those temps, performing flawlessly; offering effective visibility of our instructor(s) during various types of smoke condition. Our instructors especially appreciated the added reassurance of being able to see each other during heavy smoke and fire conditions. In past practice, it was common that the smoke condition(s) presented would offer absolutely no visibility of personnel during these interior operations.

Future hands on evaluations of this product will continue during our Fall 2009 training schedule. We are presenting a 16 hour RIT Confidence class that we expect will offer yet another opportunity to further explore this products viability and effectiveness. Joe Gonzalez has also informed me that design plans for a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Glo-Jo Helmet Band is in the works, offering further enhancements and expanding capabilities.

Inner Circle Fire Training will continue to utilize the Glo-Jo Helmet Band as it aids our operations and increases the visibility of our instructors. A tough product designed by firefighters for firefighters. Great job Joe! Keep up the great work!

Thank you for the opportunity to evaluate your product,

Michael Waldron  
**Inner Circle Fire Inc.**