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## The Challenge

Firefighters are caught in a flashover while responding to a 911 call at a Cincinnati area fast food restaurant. While they know they need to immediately exit the building, conditions are dark and smoky; there is zero visibility inside the structure.

## The Solution and Results

Illuminating helmet bands worn by the firefighters help to illuminate the area and enable the firefighters to see each other and exit the building safely. The helmet bands, marketed under the name Foxfire, use advanced photoluminescent technology that enables them to be repeatedly charged by any light source. For further product information, visit [www.mn8products.com](http://www.mn8products.com).

*"From an accountability standpoint, the Foxfire helmet bands were the only way we could see each other and make sure we were all safe."*

— Captain Peter Hauser,  
Woodlawn (Ohio) Fire Dept.

# Foxfire Helmet Bands Keep Firefighters Safe

## During Zero Visibility Fire at a Cincinnati Area Fast Food Restaurant

Smoke and haze led a fast food restaurant manager in suburban Cincinnati to call 911 early one morning in October 2010. The smoke was first noticed by employees reporting to work as they appeared for their early morning shift.

Within minutes the first firefighters arrived. A total of six different fire departments responded to the fire before it was eventually extinguished.

The restaurant structure was an older building which had been remodeled several times. During previous remodeling efforts, a drop ceiling had been installed over the original ceiling. Once inside the building, firefighters started removing ceiling tiles and discovered super heated gases in the concealed space between the two ceilings.

The Woodlawn Fire Department, of the nearby Village of Woodlawn, was one of the first fire departments on the scene. "It was still dark outside when we entered the building," said Peter Hauser, captain of the Woodlawn Fire Department. "Combined with the smoke and darkness inside the building, there was zero visibility."

## Illuminating Helmet Bands Lead Firefighters to Safety

On the day of the fire, the entire Woodlawn Fire Department crew was wearing Foxfire illuminating helmet bands on their helmets. The helmet bands, made of industrial grade high temperature resistant silicone, are designed to handle the heat and rigors of firefighting.

Foxfire helmet bands and other products increase firefighter safety by emitting a glow, which is brightly visible even in dark, smoke-filled rooms. The glow illuminates surroundings and serves as a light emitter, enabling firefighters to keep track of their crews in dark environments. It also assists in quickly locating dropped tools in dark environments and provides a visual reference point to increase a firefighter's positional orientation.

"As we quickly realized that heat from the growing fire had been absorbed into the upper walls and ceiling of the building, the room burst into flames and a flashover occurred," said Captain Hauser. The crew knew it was time to immediately exit the building.

"The helmet bands were the only way we could make sure we were heading in the right direction," said Captain Hauser. "And from an accountability standpoint, they were the only way we could see each other and make sure we were all safe."

Foxfire helmet bands utilize an advanced photoluminescent technology that possesses the unique capacity to absorb and store light. The bands, which do not require batteries, can be repeatedly charged by any light source and emit an intense glow in the darkness.

"Flashlights are simply not as reliable to the Foxfire helmet bands. Flashlights require batteries, can malfunction, and don't provide enough light," said Captain Hauser. "Without a doubt, the helmet bands are an incredible way of keeping our crews safe."

Although firefighters mounted a defensive fight on the fire from outside the building, the restaurant was destroyed. However, there were no injuries to any firefighters or civilians from the fire event, which was ruled as electrical.

