



First Responders - FIRST

Jeffrey D. Wassmer
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
York County
wassmer@yorkcounty.gov

York County



Our Commitment

York County Department of Fire and Life Safety, strives to maintain the highest standards of occupational health and safety by providing the most up-to-date training and equipment.



Hazards of the Profession

- Fast moving cars and distracted drivers at Motor Vehicle Accidents
- A roof collapse at the structure fire incident
- Exposures to Hazardous Materials at the HAZMAT incident
- . . . and the list goes on
- Safety of Life First



Background

- VACO Award Winner – Innovation
- Community Support
- Constant Improvement
 - Life and Death Situations
 - Citizens & Firefighter
- Training New Techniques Difficult
 - Time Sensitive
 - Availability
 - Making it Real



The Statistics Behind the Tactics

On average, there are 400,000 working residential fires every year in the U.S.

24% of all fire deaths in the U.S occurred in bedrooms at night.

Use of this tactic by York County Firefighters will serve to increase the recognition and ability of firefighters to rescue citizens trapped in residential fires.



Innovation

- Traditional Concept
 - In the Door
 - Fight the Fire Head On
- Innovation
 - VEIS – Vent, Enter, Isolate and Search
 - Isolate High Priority Areas – Rescue Focused
- Training Was the Challenge



The Solution

- Classroom Training – On Duty Personnel
 - Audio/Video/Discussion/Development
- Real-World Limiting Training Devices
 - Window Rescue Prop
 - Confidence Box
- Battlefield Training – Live Training
- Cost Effective



Firefighters Train on Fire Dynamics/VEIS



York County



Training Props



Window Rescue Prop



Confidence Box





Results

- Highly Trained Members in Strategic and Tactical Awareness
- Increased effectiveness and ability to Respond
- Safer for Citizens and Responders



Continued Life Safety

- Health Concerns
- Complexity of Fires has Changed – HAZMAT
- Most Dangerous Unrecognized Threat to Firefighters – **CANCER**
 - Testicular – 2.2 Times
 - Myeloma 1.53
 - Non-Hodgkins 1.51
 - Skin 1.39
 - Brain 1.31



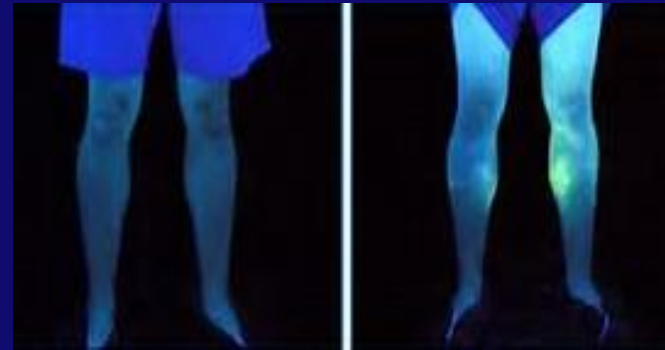
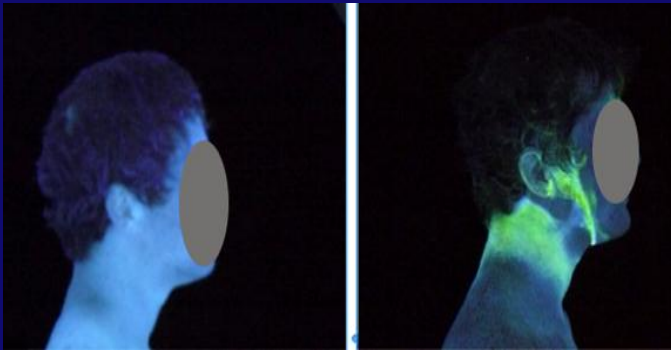
Challenge

- Fire to Fire
- No Down Time
- No Decontamination Time
- Equipment Limitations
- Increased Risk
- Focus on Decreasing Contaminates



PPE Limitations

- No matter what gear a department purchases, the lungs and dermal absorption are constantly the two primary routes of firefighter exposure.
- The permeability of human skin increases with temperature. For every five degree increase in skin temperature the skin absorption rate increases by 400%





Solution

Risk Never Eliminated

- Gross Decontamination at Fire Ground
- Industrial Wipes
- Issued Two Hoods
- Wash Your Hood Sundays



Conclusion

- Too Important Not to Do!
- Minimal Cost
- Big Impact