



BOARDMAN FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT

FIRE CHIEF MIKE HUGHES

911 TATONE STREET, BOARDMAN, OR 97818 541.481.3473 WWW.BOARDMANFD.COM

Michael Hughes

Fire Chief

Boardman Fire Rescue District

911 Tatone Street

Boardman, OR 97818

Subject: Advanced Firefighter Safety Technology

As a Fire Chief with decades of experience in emergency response, firefighter safety, and incident command, I am writing to express strong support for the advancement and adoption of next-generation firefighter safety technology such as the system developed by BleedIO Tech.

Firefighting remains one of the most dangerous professions in the world. While our training, discipline, and standard operating procedures have evolved, one critical gap has persisted—real-time visibility into firefighter location, condition, and environmental hazards during active incidents. Traditional radio communication and accountability systems, while essential, do not provide the level of situational awareness needed in rapidly changing, high-risk environments.

The solution presented by BleedIO Tech directly addresses these long-standing challenges.

Their netMESH™ system introduces a level of operational intelligence that has not previously been available to incident commanders. Real-time monitoring of temperature, oxygen, and carbon dioxide levels inside turnout gear provides early warning of life-threatening conditions, allowing for proactive decision-making rather than reactive rescue efforts.

Equally important is the ability to track firefighter location with near pinpoint accuracy inside structures. In a firefighter down or mayday situation, seconds matter. The ability to immediately identify and locate a firefighter within one meter dramatically improves rescue outcomes and reduces risk to additional crews.

From a command perspective, this technology is a force multiplier. Having a real-time “captain’s view” of personnel, equipment, and fireground conditions enhances accountability, improves tactical decision-making, and strengthens overall incident management.

Beyond emergency response, the value extends into training, equipment management, and long-term risk reduction. The system’s ability to track equipment, monitor PPE integrity, and provide actionable data supports continuous improvement in both operations and firefighter preparedness.



BOARDMAN FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT

FIRE CHIEF MIKE HUGHES

911 TATONE STREET, BOARDMAN, OR 97818 541.481.3473 WWW.BOARDMANFD.COM

Additionally, the portability and independent network design—requiring no WiFi, cloud, or external infrastructure—makes it practical for real-world deployment in the environments we actually operate in.

From a leadership standpoint, technologies like this are not just innovations—they represent a shift in how we protect our people. They reduce liability, improve accountability, and most importantly, increase the likelihood that every firefighter goes home safely after every call.

In my professional opinion, adopting advanced monitoring and tracking systems such as this is a necessary step forward for the fire service. It aligns with our core mission: protecting lives—both the public and our own.

I strongly support continued evaluation, funding, and implementation of this type of technology within the fire service.

Respectfully,

Michael Hughes

Fire Chief

Boardman Fire Rescue District