



BOARDMAN FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT

FIRE CHIEF MIKE HUGHES

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Michael Hughes

Fire Chief

Boardman Fire Rescue District

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Subject: Immediate Need for Deployment of Advanced Firefighter Safety Technology

I'll be direct—what we are asking firefighters to do today with yesterday's technology is no longer acceptable.

Every time we send crews into a structure fire, we are making critical decisions with limited visibility. We rely on radio traffic, experience, and instinct—but we are still missing one thing that should already exist in the modern fire service: real-time, actionable intelligence on our people inside the hazard zone.

That gap costs time.

And in our profession, time costs lives.

The technology presented by BleedIO Tech is not incremental—it is transformational.

Their system provides real-time monitoring of firefighter conditions, including temperature, oxygen, and carbon dioxide levels inside turnout gear, giving command staff early warning before a situation becomes fatal.

It delivers precise interior location tracking—within approximately one meter—inside structures. That alone changes everything. In a mayday situation, we are no longer searching—we are going directly to our firefighter.

This is the difference between a recovery and a rescue.

From the command standpoint, this technology provides a true operational picture—tracking personnel, equipment, and environmental conditions in real time. It allows incident commanders to make faster, smarter, and safer decisions under pressure.

Let's be clear—this is not a “nice to have.”

This is a critical safety gap that now has a viable solution.

We talk about accountability.

We talk about risk reduction.

We talk about sending everyone home.



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This technology actually delivers on those commitments.

It also addresses operational efficiency and fiscal responsibility. By improving situational awareness and reducing catastrophic incidents, departments can lower long-term liability exposure and workers' compensation costs while improving overall performance.

Even more importantly, the system is designed for the real world—portable, rapidly deployable, and independent of WiFi or cloud infrastructure. It works where we work.

The bottom line is this:

We now have access to technology that can dramatically improve firefighter survival, accountability, and command effectiveness. The only question is whether we choose to adopt it—or continue operating without it.

From my perspective as a Fire Chief, delaying adoption is a decision in itself—and it's one that carries risk.

I strongly recommend immediate evaluation, pilot testing, and funding consideration for this technology. Our firefighters deserve every available advantage when they step into harm's way.

Respectfully,

Michael Hughes

Fire Chief

Boardman Fire Rescue District