

May 28, 2010

Mr. John Schwind  
Global Safety First, LLC  
50 Curtis Avenue  
Manasquan, NJ 08736

Dear Mr. Schwind:

My name is Richard A. Marinucci. I have been a Fire Chief for over 25 years. I have been President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and served as the Acting Chief Operating Officer of the United States Fire Administration and senior advisor to the National Fire Academy.

I am writing to offer my professional opinion of the Read Mask manufactured by Global Safety First, LLC. Prior to offering my opinion on this product I conducted my own independent evaluation and testing of the Read Mask. The following is the testing that was conducted:

Several of my firefighters and me live tested the mask in a smoke-filled environment caused by a hostile fire at our training tower. During the test, we had the Read Mask on. We found that the Read Mask provided enough filtering of the smoke to allow us to escape from the hazardous environment. The eye protection minimized irritation to my eyes, which improved on the visibility one would normally expect in those conditions.

I view the mask as a simple, affordable way to allow a civilian, who would obviously not have a contained breathing apparatus, more of an opportunity to escape a fire or situations with other particulates that can be filtered by the mask. The mask is very simple to use and does not take a lot of time or instruction to put on. This is a critical factor during the panic stage that occurs when a person is first aware of the fire or other catastrophic event. My experience tells me that the mask will be used for the first time during the emergency as few people actually train before an event. Ease of use is essential.

This is the simplest product that I have seen. No straps, it just seals to your face so smoke doesn't come in around the edges like other masks, which is a major issue with other particle masks with straps. The Read Mask filters many of the by-products of fire at a level sufficient to allow the user additional time to safely evacuate from a building, train, car, school, airplane or other effected area (in most cases).

The benefits and value of built-in eye protection cannot be overlooked. For those of us that deal with fire and explosion on a daily basis, it is clear that many people cannot see because of the particles that diminish their vision or the toxins cause the eyes to tear. The Read Mask offers a solution to that issue at the same time. Firefighters may have separate eye protection but the civilians that are involved unintentionally do not.

There are other masks making claims to filter carbon monoxide. Simply put, carbon monoxide is a chemical byproduct of combustion and cannot be filtered by typical masks. Carbon monoxide by itself can be lethal and its generation by combustion also

indicates that oxygen levels are diminishing. That is why I feel it is critical to have a product that allows you to escape safely and quickly so you are free of the entire fire area.

These masks would be beneficial in the home or at work, especially in a high rise building where direct escape to fresh air is not possible and the large number of people requiring evacuation slows the process. Because it can fit in your pocket, briefcase or purse, having one would add a level of safety for anyone who takes a subway, travels, and stays in hotels.

The Read Mask provides a reasonable option for those interested in improving their chances because it is easy to store and use and affordable. All of the senior fire safety positions I have held during my career have helped me to be prudent, and practical, when evaluating products. I will not overly state what a product can do. I believe this mask will greatly improve your chances of survival when a rapid escape from smoky conditions is needed. I carry the Read Mask with me and would use the Read Mask. I do not hesitate to recommend its use for its intended purpose - giving people time to escape from a fire or other emergency situation where breathing or vision could be impaired.

If you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard A. Marinucci', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard A. Marinucci

Fire Chief

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## Biography

Richard Marinucci is currently the Chief of the Northville Township (Mich.) Fire Department. Prior to that he served as Chief of the Farmington Hills Fire Department since 1984. As Chief, he is responsible for the administration and management of the department which includes Emergency Medical Service (EMS), fire prevention, public fire safety education, training, emergency management, hazardous materials, and technical rescue.



Chief Marinucci was President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, a 12,000-member organization representing Fire Chiefs and Chief Fire Officers in 1997-98. He was the first Chair of the Commission on Chief Fire Officer Designation, currently the Commission on Professional Credentialing. He is currently designated as a Chief Fire Officer (CFO).

In 1999, he served as Senior Advisor to Director James Lee Witt of FEMA and Acting Chief Operating Officer of the United States Fire Administration for seven months as part of a loan program between the City of Farmington Hills and FEMA. He received the Outstanding Public Service Award from the Director for his efforts.

Chief Marinucci has three Bachelor of Science degrees: secondary education from Western Michigan University, fire science from Madonna College, and fire administration from the University of Cincinnati. He was the first graduate of the Open Learning Fire Service Program at the University of Cincinnati (summa cum laude) and was named a Distinguished Alumnus in 1995. He has since co-authored a revision of two of the open learning courses. He has also attended courses at the National Fire Academy.

Chief Marinucci was selected to be a panel member of the Recommissioned America Burning committee. He is a member of the Western Wayne County Fire Chiefs (President since 2005), the Regional Alliance for Firefighter Training (Chair since its inception in 1997), Southeastern Michigan Fire Chiefs (President 1989-90), Michigan Fire Chiefs, and National Fire Protection Association. He has served as President of the Great Lakes Division of the IAFC in 1992/93. He authored *The Fire Chief's Guide to Administration and Management* published by Brady (Pearson). He currently is a regular contributing author for *Fire Engineering* and *Fire Apparatus* magazines.

Chief Marinucci has instructed a wide variety of training programs from basic fire fighter to chief officer training. He has been an adjunct faculty member of Madonna University, Eastern Michigan University, and Oakland Community College. He has presented programs for the International Association of Fire Chiefs, California Fire Instructors Workshop, Fire Department Instructors Conference, Fire Chiefs Association of Japan, The National Fire Academy EFO Symposium, and the Maryland Fire Rescue Institute National Staff and Command School, and numerous regional, state, and local conferences and workshops across the country.

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