



NEWPORT BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 1768, 3300 NEWPORT BLVD., NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92658-8915

STEVE LEWIS, FIRE CHIEF

September 8, 2008

To whom it may concern:

I have been with Newport Beach Fire Department since 1992 and I remember using a bandana for respiratory protection during the fire storm of 1993 in Malibu, Laguna, and other locations. And once upon a time we were issued the Respro Bandit Charcoal Filter mask. Then I remember being asked to test a new mask called the Bush Pro with an Xcaper Filter by Whiffs. We were also asked to try the mask during overhaul operations in structure fires.

I have been using the Xcaper filter in a Bush Pro mask since it was a new product. And I know it works great. I use it for wildland, structure overhaul, and for fire investigations. The mask greatly reduces the exposures I was once subjected to. I no longer experience a headache or nausea following any of the above operations. The mask feels restrictive for about the first two or three breaths when I first put it on, but then becomes very comfortable to work with. I have been fortunate enough to respond on multiple Strike Teams and put the mask to use for extended periods on wildland fires. I also wear a Gas Alert Micro when performing fire investigations to monitor the Carbon Monoxide level. Carbon Monoxide levels increase and products of combustion begin floating in the atmosphere when digging out a fire. I would not perform an investigation without my Xcaper Filter to protect me and my lungs.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Edwards", written over a white background.

Captain Dennis Edwards
Newport Beach Fire Department