

June 2024

TrackPPE

Award-winning journalism

www.fire-magazine.com

iTrack PPE – RFID enabled contaminated PPE management and tracking

Focus on PPE

Featuring contributions from Ballyclare, <u>Hainsworth, Safety Components and PBI</u>

Reimagining services

FIRE previews the forthcoming Congress on integrating service delivery

Terrorism resilience

FIRE reviews our acclaimed Congress on Fire & Emergency Resilience in the Face of Terrorism

RFID



iTrackPPE

'inform engage inspire'

Steve McLinden, CEO, iTrackPPE, reports on how his company offers a pioneering solution revolutionising how organisations manage PPE and mitigate exposure risks

Leveraging technology to mitigate cancer risks for firefighters and first responders

s society looks up to firefighters and first responders as individuals who selflessly rush into danger to save lives, it is crucial to acknowledge the silent danger they face: increased rates of cancer. The hazardous environments they operate in, filled with toxins and carcinogens, pose a significant threat to their health. In the face of this looming crisis, it is imperative for organisations to adopt robust mechanisms to protect these brave individuals. One such solution gaining traction is iTrackPPE, leveraging stateof-the-art RFID scanners from Zebra Technologies and intelligent distribution systems.

The heightened risk of cancer among firefighters and first responders is well-documented. Exposure to various carcinogens during firefighting operations, including smoke, soot, and chemicals, significantly elevates their susceptibility to cancer. Studies have shown that firefighters are more likely to develop certain types of cancer



TrackPPE

compared to the general population, with incidences of lung, throat, and bladder cancers notably higher. Moreover, as the diversity of the people we employ continues to expand it is extremely worrying to find increased rates of cervical cancer amongst our female colleagues. This alarming trend underscores the urgent need for proactive measures to minimise exposure and ensure the wellbeing of these dedicated professionals.

Enter iTrackPPE, a pioneering solution revolutionising how organisations manage personal protective equipment (PPE) and mitigate exposure risks. Leveraging Zebra Technologies' RFID technology, iTrackPPE offers an intelligent distribution system that provides full accountability of assets at all times. By seamlessly tracking the movement of PPE, from issuance to return, organisations can ensure that every piece of equipment is accounted for, reducing the likelihood of exposure due to inadequate protection.

In an era of tightening budgets and increasing demands on public sector organisations, the challenge to do more with less has never been more pronounced. As the pressure mounts to maximise resources while maintaining service levels, the need for innovative solutions becomes paramount. With the looming necessity for additional PPE to bolster availability levels, organisations face the prospect of significant investment. However, iTrackPPE offers a transformative approach by utilising algorithms to intelligently distribute PPE based on activity levels and crewing profiles.

By harnessing the power of RFID technology, iTrackPPE ensures that the optimal amount of PPE is readily available at each location, stored in bespoke RFID-enabled storage units. This dynamic allocation not only enhances



operational efficiency but also minimises waste and redundancy. Moreover, iTrackPPE grants organisations access to every piece of PPE within their service that is not within the managed care process or issued to an individual.

Central to iTrackPPE's arsenal is its innovative contaminated PPE collection and containment unit, which incorporates RFID technology to automatically scan and account for returned PPE. This cutting-edge solution not only streamlines the process of collecting and sanitising contaminated gear but also ensures accurate tracking and monitoring of each item's usage history. By facilitating swift identification and isolation of contaminated equipment, iTrackPPE empowers organisations to safeguard the health and safety of their personnel effectively.

Furthermore, with the introduction of new standards mandating accurate tracking and comprehensive life histories for assets, the need for advanced solutions like iTrackPPE becomes even more pronounced. Organisations must be equipped to provide detailed records of each piece of PPE and associated equipment, especially in the event of contamination incidents. iTrackPPE rises to the challenge by offering a comprehensive and user-friendly interface that captures the entire life cycle of PPE and breathing apparatus, empowering organisations to meet regulatory requirements with ease.

In the face of escalating cancer risks among firefighters and first responders, there is a pressing need for proactive measures. Embracing available technology, such as iTrackPPE, is not merely an option but a necessity. By integrating advanced RFID and intelligent distribution systems into their operations, organisations can significantly reduce the potential exposure and effects of contamination in their day-to-day work. It is time for a paradigm shift - a collective commitment to leveraging innovation as part of a holistic solution to protect those who protect us.

evolving challenges.

or visit www.itrackppe.com

"It is time for a paradigm shift – a collective commitment to leveraging innovation as part of a holistic solution to protect those who protect us"

This comprehensive approach not only addresses the immediate challenge of ensuring adequate PPE availability but also delivers long-term financial efficiencies. By optimising asset utilisation and streamlining inventory management, iTrackPPE enables organisations to realise substantial cost savings over the lifespan of their assets. In a landscape where every pound counts, iTrackPPE emerges as a strategic investment that not only enhances safety but also delivers tangible fiscal benefits, positioning organisations to thrive in the face of

In conclusion, the imminent risk of increased cancer rates among firefighters and first responders demands urgent action. iTrackPPE, with its state-of-the-art RFID technology and intelligent distribution systems, offers a beacon of hope in the fight against occupational hazards. By ensuring full accountability of assets, minimising exposure risks, and providing comprehensive life histories of equipment, iTrackPPE emerges as a vital ally in safeguarding the health and well-being of those on the front lines. Organisations must heed the call to embrace technology as a fundamental component of their strategy to mitigate the adverse effects of contamination and uphold the safety of their personnel. For further information contact steve@itrackppe.com

FUTURE-PROOF ASSET MANAGEMENT THAT PAYS FOR ITSELF

- Intelligent asset distribution, optimisation & management
- Increased PPE availability, reducing the risk of carcinogenic exposure
- Integrated RFID & QR tracking technology
- Intuitive end user application
- Complete user and asset compliance history capture
- Sustainable logistics & performance management functionalities



INCREASED ASSET AVAILABILITY & LONGEVITY AT A LOWER OPERATIONAL COST



iTrackPPE

www.itrackppe.com