



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Lion Apparel Delivers New Protective Equipment To Evansville Fire Department**

**EVANSVILLE, INDIANA** – November 9, 2007 – Lion Apparel, the world's largest supplier of protective clothing worn by firefighters throughout the United States and in many parts of the world, recently delivered new personal protective equipment (PPE) to the Evansville (Ind.) Fire Department.

Evansville Fire Chief Kenneth Zuber had two goals to help ensure proper PPE maintenance and safety for his firefighters: outfit his firefighters with uniform sets of new turnout gear and implement an inspection policy. An evaluation committee of 15 Evansville firefighters wear-tested turnout gear from four PPE manufacturers from February through June 2007. The department opened the bidding in July of the same year and awarded the contract to Lion Apparel in August.

The Evansville Fire Department selected Lion Apparel's Janesville V-Force® coats and pants constructed of isodri® Protective Systems fabrics to meet its PPE needs. Each layer of isodri® Protective Systems fights the proven problems of wet turnout gear by delivering a superior moisture management solution.

“At the end of the day, our evaluation committee agreed that Lion came up with the best products and bid to meet our specifications,” Zuber said.

Previously, the responsibility for gear maintenance and replacement was left up to the individual firefighters, resulting in mismatched gear, non-customized fit and maintenance and potential safety issues. Lion Apparel custom sized each firefighter for the V-Force® turnouts to ensure precise fit, maximum comfort and mobility.

“They actually have custom-fit gear now, so it's just for them. They really love that,” Zuber said. “It's a great product.”

Recognizing the importance of the National Fire Protection Agency's 1851 standard on selection, care, and maintenance of the protective gear, the Evansville Fire Department, Lion Apparel and Salamander Technologies also collaborated to design an asset tracking software to manage the new inventory.

"The system is a very important asset to our department," Zuber said.

The contract between the Evansville Fire Department and Lion Apparel will begin with an initial order for 288 sets of turnout gear. The contract runs through 2008, with two one-year extensions.

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Lion Apparel Inc. is a 111-year-old, family owned global company based in Dayton, Ohio, USA. Through offices in the U.S., Canada, U.K., Germany, France, Australia and Spain, Lion serves the uniform and personal protective equipment (PPE) and logistics requirements of police and fire departments, civilian government agencies, emergency services, and military organizations around the world. Each and every day, Lion fulfills the personal safety, readiness and identity needs of its customers around the world.