

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- In your view, what are the activities and situations in which the responders in your organization are at the greatest risk of injury or illness? Why are these the most risky situations?
- Where are the weakest links in your protective equipment?
- What are your priorities for acquiring personal protective equipment now or in the future?
- Over the past few years, have emergency responders in your organization suffered any casualties that resulted from shortcomings in the design or use of PPE? How has this affected your thinking about PPE needs, training, or information?
- In your view, what are the currently available or emerging innovations that would be most beneficial for increasing the protection of your organization's members and/or enhancing the capabilities of individual emergency responders?

TECHNOLOGIES RELATED TO PERSONAL PROTECTION

- What types of hazard monitoring and assessment technologies do you use in your operations? How does this information help you select and use personal protective equipment? What innovations in this area would make the greatest difference to your organization?
- Do you perceive that there is a need for more tailored PPE options to provide more-task-specific PPE based on characteristics of
 - particular types of responses?
 - particular activities at a given response?

- What communications innovations would make the greatest difference to your organization with regard to protecting responders?

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING

- How does your organization manage the maintenance, repair, and retirement of personal protective equipment? What information or innovations would make maintaining and assuring the performance of your PPE easier or more effective?
- Proper training and information are critical for maximizing the effectiveness of PPE. Is the current situation adequate? What options do you have? What innovations would improve information and training regarding PPE use?

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

- With respect to personal protective equipment, do you coordinate with other districts or emergency response agencies regarding PPE interoperability, supply, training, or enforcement?

PERSONAL PROTECTION MARKET

- How do you assess your department's PPE needs?
- How do you evaluate personal protection technologies and practices? How do you acquire them? Are there ways to improve the flow of information?
- What factors influence your decisions as to which personal protective technologies to acquire (e.g., cost, regulatory requirements, usefulness, quality, compatibility with existing equipment)?
- How does certification affect PPE acquisition and use? What are your experiences and feelings regarding certification of PPE?

THE FUTURE ENVIRONMENT

- How do you foresee changes in the mission/role of your organization over the next several years impacting your personal protection needs? What are the risk and personal protection implications?