



PROTECTING THE WORLD'S
FIREFIGHTERS

NEW USAR PPE INCORPORATES XFlex™ DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Following the successful launch of XFlex™, Bristol's innovative PPE design for structural firefighter clothing, a new USAR coat and trouser has been added to the company's firefighter PPE range. Sharing design DNA with XFlex™, the new kit features a number of advances on the previous design introduced in 2009.

Incorporating two layers, the new USAR ensemble continues Bristol's design tradition by focusing on comfort, ergonomic fit and composite flexibility in kit intended for use in a variety of technical rescue tasks as well as road and rail accidents. Both coat and trouser feature a flame retardant outer layer over a waterproof membrane, 3M reflective triple trim and incorporate a pathogen barrier. The product meets the requirements of the EN ISO 11612 General Flame standard. The new USAR PPE is available in orange, High-Viz orange, red and navy and in 3 alternative outer fabric combinations. A choice of Protex Cotton, Nomex Delta C and Kermel is married up to a Gore Crosstech SR moisture barrier.

A number of features demonstrate the advances achieved in this latest offering including a single zip size allowing any girth variations to be mixed when using the facility to zip the coat and trouser together to form a one-piece garment. For the coat, flexibility comes in the form of vented underarm panels, underarm gussets, a pleated back, quilted padding on the elbows, improved throat protection and weatherproof seal over the front zip. Added comfort is provided in the form of angled pockets with flaps, full breathability through all layers and wrist straps to close sleeve hems over gloves. Combined comfort and safety features in the trouser include elasticated side waist, ergonomic curved knee shaping and quilted foam padding with Kevlar for protection and a leg gusset with concealed zip.

Commenting on Bristol's new product strategy, joint MD Roger Startin, said, "Having experienced the enthusiastic market response to the XFlex™ structural range at international exhibitions in Australia, Europe, the Middle East and the UK since the launch last autumn, we have chosen to incorporate the XFlex™ design into other PPE ranges where there are clear wearer benefits. USAR kit is one example. Another is the new technical rescue kit now being phased in for the UK's ambulance HART teams". He added, "We will continue to build on the innovative features which the XFlex™ design introduced as we continue to explore opportunities to further develop our other firefighter PPE products".

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12.01.2012 final (FTP)

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Editor's note: Bristol Uniforms Ltd, has been, and remains, the UK's leading designer and manufacturer of protective clothing for municipal and industrial firefighters both in the UK and abroad with around 50% of sales being exported to over 110 countries across the world. The Company, which also supplies specialist PPE for other emergency services including the police and ambulance service, employs over 100 people.