

# OTTO November 2003 newsletter



## EXTRA EXTRA... Genesis Speaker Microphone

- > Robust enough to withstand prolonged exposure to water and temperature extremes
- > Designed with a removable front grill to easily wash away dirt and other debris

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## One Tough Firefighter

*John Towns*

When you walk around OTTO you see many photos of the construction equipment, aircraft, military and public safety applications that use our products. We recently received an amazing reminder of just how demanding these applications can be and the potential consequences of failure. The photo shows a speaker mic returned by the Ottawa Fire Department.

When I started writing this article it was titled "One Tough Speaker MIC". Thinking about what happened to this speaker mic led me to think about what

happened to the firefighter who was using it. You can see from the photo that our speaker mic was heated to a point where the plastic housing, flex relief and PTT buttons were starting to melt. The

heat also took the coils right out of the cable along some of its length and the insulating jacket burned away in some sections. It was attached to the firefighter when this occurred! The amazing thing is although our mic and the firefighter suffered 3rd degree burns, they both survived. The OTTO speaker mic never failed to function during this fire and it still works even in this severely damaged condition. I am very happy to report that the firefighter is recovering and will be returning to duty soon.

The fact that the OTTO speaker mic continued to function allowed the injured firefighter and his rescuers to stay in communication at all times, under very extreme circumstances. They were impressed enough to take the time to send it back to us as an example of the ruggedness of our product.

This is a testimony to the dedication of everyone at OTTO. It is also a reminder of the responsibility that comes with supporting these demanding applications. The decisions we make every day here at OTTO can have a real affect on the lives of the people using our products. We must never lose sight of the critical functions our products often perform when we make those decisions. It is also important for all of us to continue to recognize the contribution that our public safety officials make every day, often risking their lives in the process. ■

