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First-Responder's *news*

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF FIRST-RESPONDERS AND HELP THEM BUILD A SECURE FUTURE.

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About AirBoss-Defense...

AirBoss-Defense is world renowned for the manufacture and supply of **CBRN** (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). AirBoss-Defense also manufactures Fire Fighting and Extreme Cold Weather (ECW) footwear, multi-purpose safety boots and a wide range of industrial extruded and moulded rubber engineered products for the defense market.

AirBoss-Defense is a proud supplier of CBRN footwear and hand wear to the joint forces of the US Department of Defense, and has been making firefighter footwear for over 30 years for clients throughout North America. AirBoss-Defense has mainly been a supplier of rubber firefighter boots to most of the major brands in the US market, until recently when these brands decided to move their production to Asia.

AirBoss-Defense has since decided to offer their superior products directly to the US market, under its own brand name, which

has become synonymous with success in the military market. This decision has helped maintain several hundred union jobs in North America, while allowing us to be extremely competitive with the Asian imports.

With its office in Acton Vale, Quebec, Canada; AirBoss-Defense has access to a broad range of manufacturing facilities located across North America. The Quebec facility is specialised in hand assembly of rubber footwear. The Ontario plant is the single largest mixing facility in North America and has high tech injection moulding equipment. The most recently opened manufacturing location is in North Carolina and is one of the most advanced mixing facilities in the world. This North Carolina facility is bookmarked for possible expansion of its defense operations.

AirBoss-Defense uses cutting edge technologies to provide the best possible, operationally effective, solutions for footwear, hand wear and respiratory protection. Dedicated to innovation, AirBoss-Defense has demonstrated its ability to grow annually, making it a world leader providing armed forces and first responders "The Ultimate Protection".



AIRBOSS-DEFENSE ON THE ROAD

FDIC 2007
April 19th to 21st, 2007
Indianapolis, IN
fdic.com



Northwest Fire & Rescue Expo
May 18th & 19th, 2007
Portland, OR
northwestfirerescue.com

**Northwest
Fire & Rescue Expo**



The Boss A revolution in firefighting footwear

"The best boots I've ever worn!"

D.H. Angus, Ont.

The new BOSS CBRN fire boot is certified by UL to be compliant with NFPA 1971 for structural firefighting. The BOSS is also certified by UL to be compliant to NFPA 1992 for liquid splash protection (hazmat) and is certified by UL for NFPA 1951 for urban search and rescue. The BOSS has been tested by two independent labs for CBRN protection, based on military specs. This makes the BOSS the most certified fire boot in the market, to ensure maximum protection for today's firefighters.

Several hundred firefighters from around the country have been wear testing the new BOSS fire boot over the past few months. Here's some of the feedback they've provided:

- "The best boots I've ever worn" D.H. Angus, Ont.
- "The boot fits well and is very comfortable" J.M. Maysville, NC
- "Extremely comfortable and gave great ankle support" T.F. Warrensburg, MO
- "The boots were extremely comfortable and they provided excellent ankle support" D.C. Blackstone, MA
- "I am blown away how much more comfortable they are over our regular boots. Much lighter, more comfortable" UconFF, CT
- "Weight of the boot is great for overall wearability and the fit of the boot reduces wearer fatigue" R.B. FF instructor.
- "The BOSS boot fits like a glove" S.M. Plymouth, MN

This is only a small sample of the incredible feedback we have gotten from the firefighters around North America who have tried on this boot. The BOSS is a new revolution in firefighter footwear. Bringing you the advantages of leather, with the protection, durability and cost effectiveness of rubber.

Dare to compare. The BOSS fire boots give you the best protection with incredible comfort at a reasonable price. Ask your local fire equipment dealer about our BOSS fire boots. From now until the end of April, AirBoss-Defense is offering you the chance to win a cruise for 2 people, just for trying the new BOSS boots on! That's right, a cruise for 2, just for trying the boots on! No strings attached.

In 2006, AirBoss-Defense came out with the world's first firefighter turnout boot that also provides CBRN protection. The boot is called "The BOSS" and offers a revolutionary new look with incredible comfort and protection. This new design makes the boot look, fit and feel like a leather boot, but provides you with the protection that only rubber may offer. All this for the cost of a rubber fire boot!

AirBoss-Defense (ABD) developed this new revolutionary fire boot by combining their military expertise (ABD is a proud supplier of CBRN hand wear and footwear to the joint forces of the US Department of Defense) with their more than 30 years of firefighting footwear experience. The result is a fire boot made for today's heroes, offering maximum comfort, protection and safety.



1971 – 2007 EDITION

What changes are in store?

On March 1st, 2007, the new NFPA 1971 – 2007 edition standard officially came into effect. This is an update to the previous NFPA 1971 standard (2000 edition).

Below is a brief overview of the major changes to NFPA 1971 – 2007 edition standard, as compared to the previous version:

- CBRN protection. The new NFPA 1971 – 2007 edition includes an optional ensemble-based category for CBRN protection. This means that to be compliant to NFPA 1971 – 2007 edition for CBRN protection, an entire ensemble must be certified from head to toe.
- The drag-rescue device (DRD). The DRD is a simple system that allows rescuers to gain leverage on a downed firefighter; and limit the potential for the downed firefighter to lose his or her coat, SCBA or any other torso-affixed item as rescuers grab onto any part of the victim's PPE to affect the rescue. This is now a mandatory piece of equipment with a certified NFPA 1971 – 2007 edition gear.

- 10 inch height minimum for firefighter footwear. All new firefighter footwear certified as compliant to NFPA 1971 – 2007 edition, must offer at least 10 inches of protection.
- Merger of NFPA 1976 (ensemble for proximity firefighting) into NFPA 1971. Given the similarities between these two areas of expertise, it was decided to incorporate both into NFPA 1971 now entitled "Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire fighting".
- Enhancements to durability testing specifications have been incorporated in the NFPA 1971 – 2007 edition which introduces an assessment of component material for resistance to degradation caused by light. Another enhancement is the flexibility of the steel soles for fire boots, which must now attain a minimum of 1 000 000 flexions.

We encourage you to communicate with AirBoss-Defense if you have any questions regarding the new NFPA 1971 – 2007 edition standard.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS
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