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First-Responder's *news*

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

*What has AirBoss-Defense been doing in the
First Response Market?*

About AirBoss-Defense... *a leader in the First Response Market*

In previous articles, we talked about the history of AirBoss Defense, which can be traced back to the 1920's, our position as a global leader in CBRN PPE (main supplier of CBRN hand wear & footwear to the US DoD joint forces) and the in-house technical advantage that we possess over other PPE manufacturers. But many have asked us; what has AirBoss-Defense been doing in the first response market?

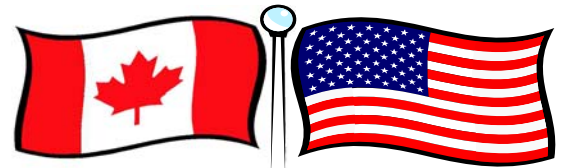
AirBoss-Defense has been making firefighter footwear in North America for more than 30 years. AirBoss-Defense is currently the leading brand name in firefighter footwear in Canada. AirBoss-Defense has been manufacturing firefighter footwear for the US first response market as a sub-contractor for other brand names, for several years. We have manufactured firefighter footwear for companies such as Black Diamond™, Lacrosse™, Lion™ & NAFECO™. These brands of rubber firefighter footwear are now being manufactured in Asia.

AirBoss-Defense decided in 2005 to sell our firefighter footwear directly to the US first response market, in order to compete with the onslaught of Asian imports. Our commitment to our union workers and keeping jobs in North America has always been a priority. With this commitment, AirBoss-Defense undertook to develop a new revolutionary fire boot that would provide the firefighter with the

"Ultimate Protection". The result was the development of the BOSS fire boot that looks, fits, feels and weighs like a leather fire boot, but gives you the best protection possible. All this for the cost of a rubber fire boot! With more than \$250,000 invested in the development of the BOSS, the result is a distinct technological advantage over the imported boots, or any fire boot in the market today.

The main advantages of the BOSS can be summarized as follows:

- A unique butyl/natural rubber laminate design. Butyl rubber is a synthetic rubber. Traditional fire boots have been made solely of natural rubber for as long as can be remembered without evolving. The laminate design provides the best protection and the best comfort for the firefighter.
- All new tooling specially designed for today's firefighters. AirBoss-Defense has invested over \$250,000 over the past few years in developing a unique last (the form which the boot is built around). This newly designed last provides an incredible all around fit for the foot, much like the feel of a leather fire boot.
- A special layer of rubber in the laminate construction expands during the curing (cooking) of the boot, creating an integrated foam layer. This provides the extremely soft & flexible feeling of the BOSS boots.
- A one piece vamp that cradles the foot. This vamp eliminates the need for seams in the foot of the boot, significantly reducing the risk of infiltration. The result is better protection for the user.



The BOSS is the only fire boot in the market that is certified compliant for structural firefighting (NFPA 1971), Liquid Splash Protection (Haz-Mat NFPA 1992) and Urban Search & Rescue (NFPA 1951).

The BOSS has allowed AirBoss Defense to rapidly gain market acceptance and recognition throughout the country. Firefighters everywhere are discovering the enormous benefits of the new BOSS boots, and are helping to keep union workers on the job in North America.

AirBoss-Defense, the little company with the big name in PPE.



The Evolution of Fire Boots

What remains is the same level of comfort, fit and weight that every firefighter will enjoy. The BOSS is truly a boot that you have to try on to believe. Over 90% of the firefighters that have wear tested the BOSS boots have rated them either "extremely satisfying" or "very satisfying".

We could go on and on about the benefits of the new BOSS boot, but why not just look at what some of our clients are saying about the BOSS boot:

"Great boot, very light and comfortable & easy to clean. Lightest boot I've ever worn" J.K., Minnesota

"I'm quite impressed with the new BOSS boot. Great job!" D.M., New York

"We have 15 people in these boots and all were very very impressed." B.F., West Virginia

"Very comfortable in comparison to other boots" J.H., Washington

"The BOSS is much lighter and overall has a more snug fit than standard boots. We are extremely happy with them." A.K., Minnesota

The BOSS, the revolutionary fire boot from AirBoss-Defense, just got better.

This boot that looks, fits, feels and weighs like a leather boot has evolved based on your feedback. The new design has taken into account the comments from over 300 wear tests by firefighters from around North America.

The new BOSS looks more than ever like a leather boot, with its all black exterior. Plus the new BOSS now provides side pull holes for easy donning, doffing and carrying. The new design makes the BOSS fire boot a bit higher than its initial design (about 2 inches). The toe area has been reinforced for added longevity. All of these evolutions were made based on firefighter comments from the field, due to our commitment to building the ultimate solution for firefighters.

"Performance and comfort are excellent. My feet no longer ache after standing on a long call. Better comfort, better grip, lighter weight, higher level of protection, what more could we ask for?" D.M., Vermont

"Overall a great boot." B.F., Pennsylvania

"These are the only boots that do not slip on my heels. They are very easy/non-restrictive, have great arch support. All in all these are great boots, the best I have worn." B.D., Montana

"Overall a very good boot. Warmer than I expected. The price when compared to leather makes the BOSS a good value." D.Y., New York

"I love the BOSS boots. They fit better than any boots I have had in the past. Overall excellent." C.N., Connecticut

With everyone that has tried the BOSS raving about its comfort, fit, protection, weight, value, performance and look, shouldn't you take a look at the next step in firefighter footwear?

We invite you to contact your local fire equipment dealer to take a closer look at the new BOSS fire boots from AirBoss-Defense.

TECHNICAL ROUNDUP

What exactly is Butyl Rubber?

A lot of talk recently has centered on butyl rubber. But what exactly is butyl rubber?

In essence, Butyl is a synthetic rubber. There are 2 types of rubber:

- a) Natural rubber, made from the latex of various tropical plants, but mainly the rubber tree, and;
- b) Synthetic rubber, which is a synthetically made polymer material that resembles natural rubber and acts as an elastomer.

Butyl rubber is produced by copolymerization of a butylene with isoprene. Butyl rubber is a carbon-based material nearly impermeable to air and used in tires, inner tubes, and insulation on a large scale throughout the world. If not for butyl rubber, our tires would not be able to hold the air we pump into them.

The impermeability of butyl rubber to air also makes it impermeable to other gases, even toxic ones. This makes butyl an excellent material when manufacturing PPE that

protects against toxic chemicals, especially gases. That is why the US DoD has chosen butyl for their CBRN hand wear and footwear solutions. No other material in the world offers the same advantages as butyl for CBRN protection.

Butyl PPE solutions offer excellent protection against highly corrosive acids, ketones and esters. They also provide very good protection against bases, alcohol, amines and amides, glycol ethers, nitro-compounds and aldehydes. This makes butyl an excellent choice for haz-mat protection. Although the initial purchase price may be somewhat higher for a butyl solution, the overall lifecycle costs will be much lower for butyl.

AirBoss-Defense offers butyl solutions for hand wear and footwear.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING OUR COMPANY, PRODUCTS OR TECHNICAL ISSUES, PLEASE CONTACT US:

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CRUISE – CRUISE – CRUISE – CRUISE – CRUISE – CRUISE – CRUISE

AirBoss-Defense is pleased to announce the WINNER's name of our "Try on a pair of BOSS boot and you could win a free cruise" Sweepstake.

Mr. **Ron Pierce** from **Leominster Fire Department** in Leominster, MA, is the lucky winner of a 7-days Caribbean Cruise for two. He shall be joining the hundreds of firefighters that will join this Firefighter and EMS Cruise with Carnival next November.

CONGRATULATIONS !