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# First-Responder's *news*

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

*Did you know that AirBoss of America is one of North America's largest custom rubber mixers ?...*

## About AirBoss-Defense...

AirBoss-Defense is a small but growing company, part of the AirBoss of America group of companies. Our size allows us to innovate, offer the best customer service and better respond to the requirements of the end-user.

AirBoss of America is one of North America's largest custom rubber mixers serving a diverse group of rubber products manufacturers.

AirBoss of America develops, manufactures and sells high quality, rubber compounds. They also engineer and mould specialty rubber-based products for the transportation, defence and industrial markets as well as for their proprietary designs of military protective wear.

With a capacity to supply over 250 million pounds of rubber annually to a diverse group of rubber manufacturers, AirBoss of America is one of North America's largest custom compounding companies. Our shares trade on the TSX under the symbol BOS.

Our formula for delivering what our clients demand—products that offer enhanced productivity and performance—is built on three pillars: Consistent Quality, Cost Efficiency and Dependability.

One of the biggest advantages in being part of the AirBoss of America group of companies is the access to one of North America's largest rubber mixing capacities. AirBoss has a dedicated R & D team that continuously works on new rubber formulations specially adapted to the specific requirements of each finished product we manufacture.



## AIRBOSS-DEFENSE ON THE ROAD

FIRE-RESCUE INTERNATIONAL  
August 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Georgia World Congress Center, Booth: 4451  
Atlanta, GA  
[www.iafc.org/fri](http://www.iafc.org/fri)



# The Maltese Cross



The Maltese cross is known around the world as a symbol of the fire service. It is often seen painted on fire trucks, on the clothing of firefighters, depicted on firefighter's badges, and is quite often the chosen design of firefighter tattoos.

The Maltese cross has its origins going back to the era of the Crusades and is named after the island of Malta which came to be the home of the Knights of St. John. The Knights of St. John existed during the 11th and 12 centuries. To help identify friend from foe during the fighting, they needed a symbol that could be used to quickly and easily identify themselves. They chose the Cross of Calvary (which would later be known as the Maltese cross) as their symbol because the Crusades were battles fought for a holy cause.

During these battles, the enemies of the knights commonly used fire as a weapon. It was not uncommon for a Knight to have to risk his own life to extinguish a fire or rescue a comrade.

Because of their ability to fight fires, and the pride and honor they took in the care of their sick and injured, the Maltese cross evolved into a fitting symbol of the modern fire service. The cross has since come to represent the principles of **charity**, **loyalty**, **gallantry**, **generosity** to friend and foe, **dexterity** of service, and **protection** of the weak.

Another long standing symbol of the fire service is the rubber fire boot. These boots offer unparalleled protection, water tightness & durability. AirBoss-Defense is a proud manufacturer of North American made rubber fire boots to the first response market for over 30 years. AirBoss-Defense is the manufacturer of the revolutionary BOSS fire boot, which looks, fits and feels like a leather fire boot, but offers rubber fire protection and durability. We invite you to try a pair on at your local fire equipment dealer.

**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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## Toxic effects of *cyanide...*

First responders may soon have a new tool to prevent the toxic effects of cyanide. According to a study published in the scientific journal *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, a natural form of the B12 vitamin called hydroxocobalamin may prove to be an antidote for cyanide poisoning.

"In 2005, more than 3,000 people died in fires with another nearly 14,000 injured; the majority of fire deaths are attributed to smoke inhalation or toxic gases," said Dr. Stephen W. Borron of The University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. "Until now, safe and effective treatments for cyanide poisoning associated with fire, terrorist attacks and industrial accidents have been elusive. This new therapy is an important step toward stopping that killer."

The benefits of the compound were studied from 1987 to 1994 but only came into the world view during the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks at the World Trade Center. During the study, researchers found that treating patients both with smoke inhalation and diagnosed cyanide poisoning had an increased chance of survival.

The study, conducted in Paris, used fire victims who were initially treated by members of the city's fire brigade, whose ranks included pre-hospital care staff. Patients were eligible for the study if they were older than 15, had soot in the mouth and nose and had an altered mental status. During the study, hydroxocobalamin was administered intravenously over 15 to 30 minutes, with additional dosing at the discretion of the treating physician.

Seventy-two percent of those treated survived. Of those patients who were diagnosed as having cyanide poisoning when admitted to the ICU, 67 percent survived the toxic chemical.

"Hydrogen cyanide contributes significantly to smoke-inhalation deaths and injuries and is the most common cause of acute cyanide poisoning in developed countries," said lead study author Frederic J. Baud, MD, of the University of Paris. "It is very difficult to tell immediately if someone has cyanide poisoning from smoke inhalation; at the same time, early intervention can be lifesaving. Unlike some cyanide antidotes ... the natural form of B12 can be used to treat patients without significant risk of harm."