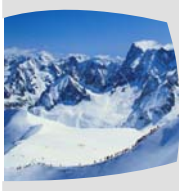




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# First-Responder's *news*

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

## The Tradition of Volunteering

The man who established the first volunteer fire department also invented bifocals, wrote and printed Poor Richard's Almanac, studied electricity and helped draft the Declaration of Independence. His name was Benjamin Franklin. The first volunteer fire department began in Philadelphia in 1736.

Franklin often wrote about the dangers of fire and the need for organized fire protection. He was dissatisfied with Boston's Mutual Fire Societies (also known as "Fire Clubs") because the "Fire Clubs" existed solely for the protection of its members, not the community at large. Franklin wanted organizations that would battle all fires, regardless of whose property was burning.

After an extensive fire in Philadelphia in 1736, Franklin established the first all-volunteer fire brigade which was known as The Union Fire Company which was comprised of 30 volunteers. As the idea of volunteer fire brigades gained popularity, additional companies were formed in Philadelphia. Each of the companies paid for their own equipment and located it throughout town at strategic places.

Other famous Americans who served as volunteer firefighters include: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Paul Revere, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, John Barry, Aaron Burr, Benedict Arnold, James Buchanan and Millard Fillmore.

Volunteer firefighters played and continue to play an invaluable role in protecting lives and property. They are part of a great American tradition... and so is their equipment. One only has to think of leather helmets to grasp the importance of tradition for the brotherhood.

One of the most cherished of traditions is the wearing of ¾ fire boots. With all of the technological advances in firefighter turnout gear, the debate rages on about the benefits vs. disadvantages of the ¾ fire boots. Some firefighters maintain that ¾ fire boots allow them more manoeuvrability while in action, the ¾ fire boots keep them cooler and help them get a better feel for the surrounding conditions. Other firefighters maintain that ¾ fire boots do not offer sufficient protection from the heat, and assume ¾ fire boots cannot meet NFPA 1971 standards. AirBoss-Defense is proud to offer a ¾ fire boot, which is the first and only ¾ fire boot certified by UL to comply with NFPA 1971 – 2007 edition. Ours is not to tell firefighters what is best for them, as that remains a matter of personal opinion.

But if ¾ boots are something your department is wearing or contemplating, wouldn't you want to get the best possible protection meeting NFPA Standards?



## NASCAR PROMOTION

AirBoss-Defense, in an effort to thank our growing list of customers, has just launched its newest drawing. We are giving you the chance to win 4 tickets to the NASCAR event of your choice.

From now until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008, every time you purchase a pair of BOSS fire boots at your local fire equipment dealer, you get a chance to participate in a drawing for 4 tickets to the NASCAR event of your choice.

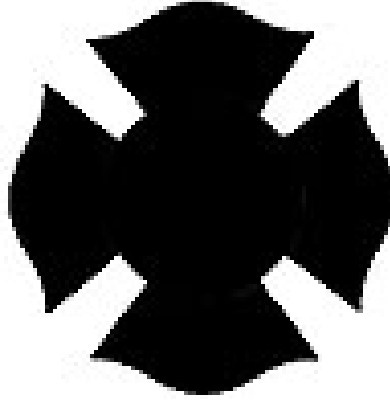
So hurry down to your nearest fire equipment dealer and ask about how you can get in on your chance to win 4 tickets to the NASCAR event of your choice.

Contact your local fire equipment dealer or AirBoss-Defense directly, for details on how to register.



# 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.

## The BOSS CBRN Fire Boot *is chosen for Military Firefighters*

AirBoss-Defense is proud to announce that the Canadian National Defense (DND) has chosen the BOSS CBRN fire boot for all of their more than 1200 military firefighters. The choice was made following a lengthy field evaluation of several of the most popular brands on the market and included both leather and rubber fire boots.



The BOSS was chosen over all other fire boots for its combination of comfort, performance, protection and price. Several field tests were completed and the feedback was overwhelming. Over 90% rated the BOSS comfort level as superior. Here is what just a few of the military firefighters had to say about the BOSS CBRN fire boot:

"...I liked the weight and comfort of the boot."

"The best boots I ever had."

"Very comfortable..."

"This is a very comfortable and durable boot."

"Very nice fit around the arch and ankle."

"Weight of boot is great for overall wear ability."

"Fit of boot reduces wearer fatigue."

As you can see, once firefighters try the BOSS CBRN fire boot, they adopt it. We encourage you to contact your local fire equipment dealer to take the BOSS fire boot challenge.

**WE WANT TO  
HEAR FROM  
YOU:**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS  
REGARDING OUR COMPANY,  
PRODUCTS OR TECHNICAL  
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