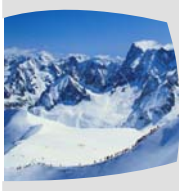




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# First-Responder's news

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

## NFPA 1500



By Jeffrey O. and Grace G. Stull

Fully implementing NFPA 1500, especially sections addressing PPE, is a major focus of Fire EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week.

The first edition of NFPA 1500 Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program was published in 1987 when there were no consensus standards for an occupational safety and health program for the fire service.

Before its introduction, fire service organizations were being increasingly subjected to regulations that were developed for general industry, which did not address their specific needs and concerns. Part of the origin for NFPA 1500 came with the documentation and reporting of direct line-of-duty deaths and growing concerns for the number of firefighters who were suffering disabling injuries or developing occupational diseases.

NFPA 1500 was established to specify minimum fire service criteria in a variety of areas including emergency operations, facility safety, apparatus safety, critical incident stress management, medical/physical requirements, member fitness/wellness, and use of PPE. Revised editions were published in 1992, 1997, 2002 and last year.

NFPA 1500 is a Standard to ensure the implementation of practices by fire departments and other emergency response organizations for improving firefighter health and safety.

Chapter seven of the current edition covers protective clothing and protective equipment. The Standard references NFPA Standards developed for specific items of PPE. General criteria include:

- Selecting protective clothing and equipment based on an assessment of the hazards in operating areas to which firefighters are likely to be exposed.
- Providing firefighters with the correct PPE appropriate to the expected exposure hazards.
- Wearing of station/work uniforms that comply with NFPA 1975 and ensuring that firefighters do not wear any unsafe clothing as part of any emergency operations.

Several sections within chapter seven address the use of specific protective clothing and equipment for specific fire service missions:

### Structural Firefighting

Departments are required to use complete protective ensembles (garments, helmets, hoods, gloves, and footwear) that comply with NFPA 1971. For the wearing of garments, the standard specifies that the coat should overlap the pants by 2 inches in all three layers, in different orientations side and to the back).

Fire departments using coats that have wristlets are required to use gauntlet style gloves, while organizations that employ coats without wristlets must use gloves with wristlets or provide a suitable interface to ensure complete protection of the firefighters' wrists, lower arms and hands. Cleaning of structural firefighting protective clothing is required at least every six months using qualified facilities to perform this cleaning in accordance with NFPA 1851 (Note: This requirement was not updated to the new annual cleaning requirement that was imposed as part of the latest edition of NFPA 1851). In-house cleaning must meet requirements in NFPA 1581, Standard on Fire Department Infection Control Program.

Compliance with all the provisions of NFPA 1500 is important to ensure consistent, high levels of safety and health for firefighters. In particular, NFPA 1500 is the sole standard that establishes several critical requirements related to the use of specific PPE for protecting firefighters during different missions. A thorough understanding and complete implementation of NFPA 1500 is credited with reducing firefighter fatalities and limiting fireground injuries.

*\*This article first appeared on the FireRescue1 website (www.firerescue1.com) and is reproduced with the authorization of FireRescue1 and the authors. It has been edited to fit the parameters of this newsletter. We invite you to read the entire article on the FireRescue1 website.*

*Jeffrey O. Stull is President of International Personnel Protection, Inc., which provides expertise on the design, evaluation, selection and use of personnel protective clothing, equipment and related products to end users and manufacturers. He is considered one of the leading experts in the field of personal protective equipment.*

## 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.



# FACTS

## AIRBOSS-DEFENSE FACTS

- AirBoss-Defense has been making rubber fire boots for over 30 years.
- AirBoss-Defense is the only manufacturer to offer a lifetime warranty on all of its fire boots.
- AirBoss-Defense is a North American manufacturer.
- AirBoss-Defense is the only manufacturer to provide a rubber fire boot that is as light and comfortable as leather fire boots.
- AirBoss-Defense is a major supplier of CBRN PPE to the US DoD and most NATO countries.
- AirBoss-Defense is the only manufacturer to offer the NFPA 1994 (CBRN) standard certification on a fire boot.
- AirBoss-Defense has a long list of clients around the country and around the world.

## FIREFIGHTING FACTS

- Volunteers comprise 73% of firefighters in the United States.
- Of the total 30,542 fire departments in the country, 21,671 are all volunteer; 5,271 are mostly volunteer; 1,582 are mostly career; and 2,018 are all career
- The number of Volunteer Firefighters in the United States has declined more than 10% since 1983
- The U.S. has one of the highest fire death rates in the industrialized world at 13.5 deaths per million population.
- Fire killed more Americans than all natural disasters combined.
- Responses increased by 5.2% last year to reach 24,470,000 calls.

## Feedback From our clients

Here is what some of our recent customers have had to say about the BOSS CBRN fire boot:

"We had a rash of fire alarms and I must have walked two miles around these buildings. I totally forgot that I wasn't wearing my leather boots, these (i.e. the BOSS) things are amazing. I won't wear any other boot besides the BOSS again. Thanks so much."

*W.R. Pennsylvania*

"We have been using the BOSS for over a year now and are impressed by the durability of your product. At first, we chose the BOSS for the comfort and the weight, but now we are keeping them and changing everyone in our department from our old leather boots over to the BOSS boots."

*M.H. South Carolina*

\*We like to hear feedback from our clients and invite you to send us your comments on our products or company.

**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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