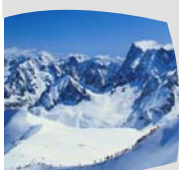




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First-Responder's *news*

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

What the Financial Crises means to the First Responder

Let's get the numbers straight;

- The total debt of the United States of America is now over \$10.5 trillion
- The debt is rising at an alarming rate of \$3.8 billion per DAY
- Each US citizen represents a debt of more than \$34,500

Eventually, someone is going to have to pay for this debt. Several options are always being discussed, but they basically break down into 2 groups;

- 1) Increase taxes
- 2) Cut funding to programs

Nobody wants to see their taxes raised... so that leaves us with the second option.

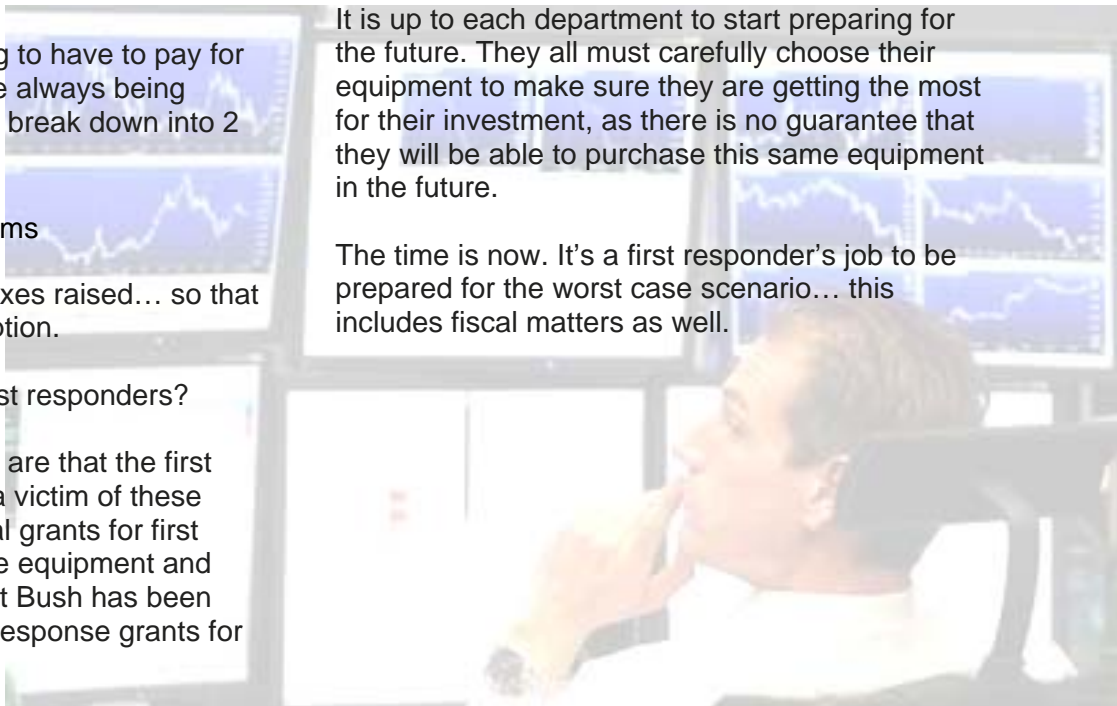
How will that impact first responders?

If programs are cut, chances are that the first responder programs will be a victim of these cuts. That means less federal grants for first responders to train, purchase equipment and build new quarters. President Bush has been trying to cut the federal first response grants for

the past 3 budgets. If this eventually happens, first responders all over the country will see their annual budgets drastically reduced. Local governments will be asked to increase their first responder budgets, but not be in a position to absorb the lack of funding created by the federal cuts, as they will also see their funding cut.

It is up to each department to start preparing for the future. They all must carefully choose their equipment to make sure they are getting the most for their investment, as there is no guarantee that they will be able to purchase this same equipment in the future.

The time is now. It's a first responder's job to be prepared for the worst case scenario... this includes fiscal matters as well.



Footwear : Making the right choice

In 1986, researchers Mahanty & Legg (Energy cost of backpacking in heavy boots. Ergonomics. 1986 Mar; 29(3):433-8) looked into how the weight of our footwear choices influences the rest of our body in a working environment. Although their research was oriented towards the hiking market, many of their conclusions are applicable to first responders and their footwear choices.

One of the conclusions of this report was that for every extra pound of weight in footwear (i.e. the weight of your boot), this adds on 6.4 lbs of weight on your back. This means that if you carry around a few extra pounds with your footwear, it's like having to wear a second scba on your back!

AirBoss-Defense has revolutionized the first responder's footwear industry by providing the BOSS, a rubber boot that is 20% lighter than the average fire rubber boot. The BOSS offers the weight and comfort level of a leather boot, but it is the only fire boot to offer both Haz Mat and CBRN protection. Plus the BOSS is a fiscally responsible choice as it provides your firefighters with all of the advantages of a leather fire boot, with increased protection, at half the cost.

We invite you try out a pair of the BOSS boots at your local equipment dealer.



Did you know ?

Fire in the United States

- The U.S. has one of the highest fire death rates in the industrialized world.
- About 5,000 people die every year in this country as the result of fire, and another 25,500 are injured.
- About 100 firefighters are killed annually in duty-related incidents.
- Each year, fire kills more Americans than all natural disasters combined.
- Fire is the third leading cause of accidental death in the home; at least 80 percent of all fire deaths occur in residences.
- More than 2 million fires are reported each year. Many others go unreported, causing additional injuries and property loss.
- Direct property loss due to fires is estimated at \$9.4 billion annually.

*Statistics from the United States Fire Administration (USFA)

**WE WANT TO
HEAR FROM
YOU:**

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REGARDING OUR COMPANY,
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