

1. INTRODUCTION

Vidafor firefighting boots are designed, manufactured and certified to be compliant to the following standards:

- NFPA 1970 (1971) – Protective Footwear for Structural Fire Fighting
- NFPA 1990 (1992) – Liquid Splash-Protective Footwear for Hazardous Materials Emergencies
- ASTM F2413, Standard Specification for Performance Requirements for Protective (Safety) Toe Cap Footwear, Edition 2024

We believe that Vidafor offers the best available foot protection for fire service personnel facing the challenges of fire and liquid chemical splash exposure in structural fire emergencies.

2. SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Structural firefighting boots provide a high level of protection for the lower leg and foot. However, firefighting activity happens in an extremely dangerous environment, and unpredictable hazards can develop during a fire emergency. Vidafor uses a third-party certification process to guarantee that our firefighting boots meet the protection needs of firefighters in a wide variety of circumstances, as addressed in the design and testing requirements of the standards NFPA 1970 (1971), NFPA 1990 (1992), and ASTM F2413.

3. LIMITATIONS OF USE

Vidafor structural firefighting boots provide effective but limited protection against:

- Conductive (contact) heat, radiant heat, and flame.
- Penetration of biological hazards.
- Chemical hazards – tested against the 16 chemical materials specified in NFPA 1970 (1971) and NFPA 1990 (1992).
- Physical challenges encountered in emergency situations (examples: punctures, cuts, tears, impacts).

Vidafor structural firefighting boots provide very limited value in situations of exposure to:

- Molten metal.
- Hazardous gaseous chemicals.
- Radiological / nuclear environments and materials.
- CBRNE agents: chemicals; biological agents; and radiological particulates that could be released as a result of a terrorist attack.
- These environments should be avoided unless the firefighter is equipped with proper protective equipment.

Furthermore, note that:

- Firefighters who encounter direct contact with flame or other extremely hot environments, including “flashover” and “backdraft”, are at high risk for death or injury, even when wearing complete ensembles certified to NFPA 1970 and NFPA 1990.
- Certification to the Liquid Splash provision of NFPA 1990 (1992) does not guarantee protection against every hazardous chemical that might be encountered in a fire or other emergency situation.



4. MARKING RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

Do not mark or alter your structural fire fighting boots. Do not remove or obscure interior labels. Any alteration to either internal or external surfaces may damage the protective physical and chemical barrier properties of your footwear, and may void the Warranty.

5. FIELD PERFORMANCE PROPERTIES OF STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING BOOTS

The performance properties of Vidafor structural firefighting boots are defined by the standards NFPA 1970 (1971), NFPA 1990 (1992), and ASTM F2413. These standards define 19 different testing procedures that are designed to provide a high level of protection to the feet and lower legs of firefighters.

Warning! The above-referenced standards and the testing they require have been certified by a leading safety science company that tests and certifies products to ensure safety and compliance. None of the performance properties of the firefighting boots or their components can be tested by the user in the field.

Conditions of usage may compromise some of the protective qualities of the boots. Firefighters must always be alert to conditions that might lead to injury, for example:

- Excess moisture in the lining of firefighter boots can reduce insulation value of the boots. If your boot linings are wet, the increase in temperature during a firefighting event may result in “steam burns” to the firefighter’s foot and/or leg. Between uses,

your Vidafor firefighting boots should be examined for lining moisture, and always store the boots in a dry, well-ventilated location (see Section 9).

- Compression of the sidewalls of firefighter boots by the user's foot and/or leg will reduce the protective value of the sidewall insulation package. Avoid pressing the boot sidewalls against physical objects such as walls, the sides ("rails") of ladders, or other firm objects.
- Radiant heat can penetrate through the sidewalls of firefighting boots despite lack of contact with flames.

"Conditional awareness" is necessary to prevent the onset of conditions that can lead to burns. Always be aware of situations where burns or other injuries could develop, even without immediate awareness of pain. Always be aware of your available escape routes and seek cooler, safer conditions as quickly as possible.

6. WARRANTY INFORMATION

LIMITED WARRANTY - These boots are warranted to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a period of one year from date of purchase. This warranty does not cover normal wear and tear, aging or deterioration over time, or damage resulting from misuse, abuse, or exposure to extreme conditions or harsh chemicals that exceed NFPA standards. Defective boots must be returned to the authorized dealer where purchased, with the original receipt.

Your boots are warranted to be free of material or manufacturing defects. This does not include normal wear and tear, deterioration from age, or abuse from extreme conditions.

7. NFPA 1851 COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Vidafor firefighting boots that have been exposed to chemicals should be inspected according to NFPA 1851, Chapter 6. Special in-house inspection notes are provided below in Section 11.
- Cleaning and decontamination of Vidafor firefighting boots should be conducted according to NFPA 1851, Chapter 7.
- Note that repair of Vidafor firefighting boots is not possible, and any repairs will void the Warranty.
- Vidafor firefighting boots should be stored in accordance with NFPA 1851 Chapter 9. See additional notes related to storage in Sections 9 and 10 of this guide.
- Vidafor firefighting boots must be retired no more than 10 years from the date of manufacture and should be disposed of in compliance with NFPA 1851 Chapter 10.

8. SIZING AND ADJUSTMENT PROCEDURES

Your boots must fit properly and interface with the rest of your NFPA 1970 (1971) ensemble for maximum protection and comfort.

- A good first step for proper sizing is to measure your feet for size and width with a Brannock (or similar) device.
- Pay attention to the interior space of the boot in relation to your foot.
 - For reliable stability, you should have limited movement in the heel area.
 - Your forefoot / toe area should allow your toes to rest flat, without lateral crowding.
 - You should not be able to feel sharp edges of the steel toe, nor feel compression of your toes against hard surfaces of the steel toe.



- Fit the boots with the same style of sock that will be used in the field. The sock may be a factor in how your foot fits the interior space of the boot.
- If your weight or body size changes, you may need to replace your boots.

9. RECOMMENDED STORAGE PRACTICES FOR VIDAFOR NFPA 1970 (1971) – NFPA 1990 (1992) FIREFIGHTING BOOTS

- Store your boots in a clean, dry ventilated area. Do not store them in plastic, paper or other containers, in small enclosed areas, in direct sunlight, in extreme temperatures, in wet, dirty, contaminated places, or beside objects that could cause heat damage, surface abrasion or cuts.
- Storage of used or dirty firefighting boots that have been exposed to fireground contaminants may increase the risk of cancer or other diseases. Do not store in living spaces or other small enclosed activity spaces.
- Boots that have been exposed through liquid splash to hazardous chemicals should be cleaned / decontaminated according the instructions in Sections 7 and 11 of this guide. Afterward, they can be stored as described here.

10. STORAGE LIFE OF VIDAFOR NFPA 1970 (1971) – NFPA 1990 (1992) FIREFIGHTING BOOTS IN TERMS OF YEARS BEYOND THE DATE OF MANUFACTURE AND THE RATIONALE FOR THIS DETERMINATION

Vidafor firefighting boots have been manufactured using rubber compounds that are chemically protected against the aging effects of atmospheric oxidation. Therefore, the functional storage life of unworn boots in the original packaging is expected to be 10 years. In compliance with NFPA 1851, footwear must be retired no more than 10 years from the date of manufacture. However, boots that are older than five years from the manufacturing date may have been made to earlier versions of the NFPA standard, and may not be considered compliant to current requirements.

“Useful life” is the period of time the boots (which have been properly used and cared for) can be expected to provide reasonable limited protection after the user begins to wear the boots. Useful life for Vidafor firefighting boots is normally expected to extend from 3 to 5 years depending on conditions of wear, maintenance, and storage.

11. INSPECTION FREQUENCY AND DETAILS

Vidafor firefighting boots should be cleaned, inspected, and replaced according to your fire department’s protocols and / or policies, and in compliance with NFPA 1851, NFPA 1970 (1971), NFPA 1891, NFPA 1992 (1990). Inspection frequency should include at least:

- Initially, when you receive your firefighting boots.
- Monthly, or more frequently.
- After use, when boots have been exposed to heat, flames, chemicals or firefighting materials (water, foam, etc.).
- After exposure to biological materials (blood, body fluids, etc.).
- After routine cleaning or decontamination.

During inspection, special attention should be given to physically evident changes such as:

- Loss of water resistance.
- Apparent “bubbling” or delamination or of an outer rubber layer from an underlying area.
- Soiling, especially areas that appear oily.
- Burned or swollen areas on the upper rubber.
- Cracked soles.
- Cracked, cut, or abraded upper rubber.
- Separated areas where the soles join the upper rubber.
- Missing labels on the interior lining.

12. DONNING AND DOFFING PROCEDURES

To don, insert your foot and pull the “pull-on loops” at the top of the boot. Confirm that your boots are comfortable and that they interface adequately with the rest of the ensemble. To doff, you may need to brace your heel against the toe of your opposite foot. Remove your boots in a safe manner to avoid contaminating yourself or others with hazardous materials.

13. PROPER USE OF FIREFIGHTING BOOTS

Proper use of Vidafor firefighting boots is consistent with the information contained in NFPA 1550 (Standard for Emergency Responder Health and Safety) and OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.132, “Personal Protective Equipment: General Requirements”.

14. CLEANING, DECONTAMINATION, AND DISINFECTION

Vidafor firefighting boots have been designed to resist a wide variety of possible hazardous chemicals, and testing has been performed to confirm a high level of resistance to hazardous materials. However, it is not possible to predict every material that a firefighter might come into contact with in an emergency situation, nor is it possible for a specific boot material to resist every chemical that it might come into contact with. Therefore, it is always important for the firefighter to practice a high level of personal hygiene in order to limit contact with any hazardous chemicals that might penetrate through your equipment or transfer to your skin when handling your protective ensemble.

Your skin provides the essential barrier for your body against the external environment. Living skin is a good barrier against water leaving your body and water-borne contaminants entering your body. However, your skin is a poor barrier against penetration by oily or fatty materials and a vast range of dangerous chemicals. Your firefighting ensemble provides necessary protection against dangerous conditions and materials, but it is not perfect protection. The wearing of soiled or contaminated protective equipment may allow some exposure of your body to hazardous materials, including the mix of potentially hazardous combustion residues from firefighting. This possibility increases with the amount of time that contaminated protective equipment is in contact with your skin.

Never use surface treatments of any kind (such as oils, waxes or pastes) on your rubber boots. Any surface treatment applied to the rubber may change the chemical properties of the rubber barrier and allow contaminants to migrate into and through the rubber.

Users of Vidafor firefighting boots should only use boots that have been thoroughly cleaned and dried. A clean, intact, unaltered rubber surface provides an effective barrier layer which can resist a wide range of contaminants.

Routine Cleaning – Mild detergent in warm water is adequate for routine cleaning of Vidafor firefighting boots. A mixture of 20% bleach (containing sodium hypochlorite, NaClO) with 80% of a mild detergent water solution may be used to remove organic materials that are not easily removed by detergent alone. The use of appropriate disposable gloves and eye protection is highly advised when using a cleaning solution on your boots.

Hazardous Chemicals – If you experience exposure to a hazardous chemical, hose down the contaminated boots at the scene to limit the exposure time of the boots to the contaminating material. Inform your supervisor of the contamination event. Wear appropriate disposable gloves when handling contaminated protective equipment, and isolate it from other ensemble elements. Decontamination should follow the guidelines in Section 7 of this guide.

Bloodborne Pathogens – Your boots may be exposed to body fluids that may contain bloodborne pathogens. If contaminated with blood or body fluids, wear appropriate disposable gloves and encapsulate and isolate your boots. Inform your supervisor of the contamination event. Decontamination should follow the guidelines in Section 7 of this guide.

15. COMPLIANCE WITH NFPA 1891

The AHJ (Authority Having Jurisdiction) over the acquisition, use and disposal of Vidafor firefighting boots is enjoined to comply with the requirements of NFPA 1891 for the selection, care, and maintenance of protective ensembles and the associated elements thereof.

16. COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL REGULATIONS

Users of Vidafor firefighting boots outside the jurisdiction of the USA is enjoined to comply with relevant national regulations or other applicable personal protective equipment regulations.

