

FOOT PROTECTION

1727

(No. 11 December 1997)

When engaged in wildland fire suppression or project work, each employee will wear heavy duty, lace-type work boots with deeply lugged soles and heels, and leather tops at least eight inches in height. The toe of the boot should be of hard material, such as hard leather, to reduce the potential of toe injuries. Steel toes are not required but do give added protection.

When engaged in structural firefighting, employees shall wear steel-toed and inner-soled turnout boots that meet the appropriate CAL-OSHA standards. Employees exempt from wearing boots with lug soles include all classes of forestry equipment managers, heavy equipment mechanics, heavy equipment operators, employees needing caulked soles, employees at air bases, and employees engaged in local government fire protection activities. For employees falling into one of these exception categories, the bottoms of the boots must be of such composition as to reduce the tendency to slip and fall, particularly when working on slippery metal surfaces. In no case will wedged-sole boots or boots without heels be permitted.

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