

	Nick's Boots*	White's*	Sportiva	Cosmas
Model	Hot Shot	Original Smokejumper	Glacier	Hercules V2
Made In:	Spokane, WA, USA	Spokane, WA, USA	Generally, 60% made in Italy, 40% made in China	Romania
100% Handmade	✓	✓	No	No
Custom Fitting & Custom Built Available	Yes	Yes	No	No
Rebuilding Options	Entire boot can be rebuilt. Other models may or may not be.	Entire boot can be rebuilt. Other models may or may not be.	No	Only soles can be rebuilt.
Shank	Iron Leather Shank	Iron Leather Shank	Half Steel Shank	Not specified
Arch Support	High	Medium	Low	Low
Ankle Support	★★★★☆	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
Sole - Type	Vibram Lug Sole #100 Vibram NFPA Red X Vibram Honey	Vibram NFPA Red X	Vibram Ice	Cosmas's Own Proprietary Sole
Sole Performance Softer compounds, while affording greater traction and comfort, tend to wear and break down more quickly. However, over multiple years of testing, the PRg cadre and customers have generally opted for the comfort & traction of a softer sole, either Vibram Honey or Cosmas.	Vibram Lug Sole #100 (Black) The original long-lasting sole. Vibram NFPA [Red X], Black – more fire resistant but not as long lasting. Soles chip, chunk and break down with heavy use. Honey Vibram Sole More cushion and traction. Slightly less durable than the original Vibram sole.	Vibram NFPA [Red X], Black – more fire resistant but not as long lasting. Soles chip, chunk and break down with heavy use.	Vibram Ice Heat activated glue will delaminate when exposed to fire or heat. Delamination is not covered under warranty.	Cosmas's custom sole has the most grip, most comfort and most heat resistant of all soles tested by PRg.
Materials	Heavy weight leather	Heavy weight leather	Medium weight leather /synthetic	Medium weight leather / synthetic
Comfort (PRg cadre's personal feedback)	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
Break-In	80-100 hours	80-100 hours	20-40 hours	20-40 hours
Weight (weights are approximate, depending on size, insoles, soles & etc)	Just over 3lbs, 10 inch height boot	Just over 3lbs, 10 inch height boot	Under 3lbs, 8 inch height boot	Just under 3lbs, 9 inch height boot
Quality Control	★★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★★
Longevity DO NOT expect your leather boots to last without proper cleaning and oiling! Sweat, machine oils, chemicals, fire retardants, wetting agents, and water all degrade leather.	★★★★★ Both the entire boot and the sole can be rebuilt repeatedly, which means these boots can last a lifetime, with proper care & PRg cleaning instructions	★★★★★ Both the entire boot and the sole can be rebuilt repeatedly, which means these boots can last a lifetime, with proper care & PRg cleaning instructions	★★★ Soles cannot be rebuilt, and synthetics break down more quickly than properly cared-for leather.	★★★★☆ Cosmas boots, with a lighter weight leather and synthetic materials, will not last as long; but as their soles can be rebuilt, they are longer-lasting than Sportiva's.
Average Life of Boot in Heavy Firefighting Use Depending on wear, soles will need to be replaced every one to two seasons.	10 seasons+ w/ proper care & PRg cleaning instructions. Soles will need to be replaced every one to two years, and boots may need to be rebuilt as well during this time.*	10 seasons + w/proper care & PRg cleaning instructions. Soles will need to be replaced every one to two years, and boots may need to be rebuilt as well during this time.*	2-3 seasons without heavy fire use. <i>"Heat activated glue will delaminate when exposed to fire or heat."</i>	2-3 seasons with proper care & PRg cleaning instructions.
NFPA Model Availability	✓	✓	Not available	✓
Cost	\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$\$	\$\$	\$\$\$
Overall PRg Rating (All factors, including cost.)	★★★★★ PRg's Number One Pick	★★★★☆	★ (Great boot for hiking, but not designed for fighting fires)	★★★★☆

*The two well-known companies on the West coast for handmade work boots/ wildland firefighting boots are Nick's Boots and White's Boots. Both companies create a good product. PRg's collected **personal** evaluations, opinions and experience since June of 2000 lead us to recommend Nick's Boots as our top choice. This is a very dynamic field evaluation and as new boots, technology and customer service emerges, we will continue our research and may change our recommendations.