



## TAILBOARD TRAINING

VFIS “**Tailboard Training**” is a bi-weekly loss prevention program for clients. The program is intended to provide information on current safety issues facing emergency responders in a format that will quickly and effectively communicate a safe practice to implement and relate directly to your organization. These are released every other Thursday by VFIS.

# USE CAUTION WHEN OPERATING PERSONAL VEHICLES TO AND FROM THE STATION OR THE SCENE

---

Most volunteer emergency departments rely heavily on the ability of their members to respond to calls, either to the scene or the station, in their privately-owned vehicles (POVs). While this is essential to the organization’s ability to react to emergencies in a timely manner, there are also inherent risks.

If your members respond to calls in personal vehicles, your organization may be able to reduce the risk of death or injury to them and to the general public by developing and enforcing standard operating guidelines (SOGs). **Volunteers should obey the state motor vehicle code** and:

1. Use courtesy light and siren properly when responding in POVs. In particular, they should not be used as a license to operate POVs as if they are emergency vehicles. Use of courtesy lights should be approved by the department chief. A written permit should be issued with the “rules of the road” that apply.
2. Obey the motor vehicle code for posted speed limits, stop signs and red traffic signals. Wait for the normal right-of-way before proceeding.
3. Follow procedures for at-the-scene parking/staging, which should be included in all SOGs.
4. Carry personal auto liability insurance.

Use your standard operating guidelines as a baseline of training, guidance and enforcement.

The objective is to complete the training in 15 minutes or less with participants leaving the session with a better understanding of how to keep from getting hurt.

1. **Have you had any such incidents in your department or in nearby departments? If so, describe a type of injury, accident, or incident that has actually occurred.**

