



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 Friday by VFIS.

SAFETY STARTS WITH A PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING OF STAYING SAFE

We continue to hear about the issue of firefighter safety, and we at VFIS concur that more can be done to better manage firefighter injuries, illnesses, and fatalities. There are a variety of issues that create barriers to improving safe performance. However, we should all remember the basics of industrial safety, and make sure we are applying fundamental safety practices to our job every day. This starts with individuals identifying situations where they can be injured, then rectifying the situation.

In real terms, accidents cause economic and social loss, impair the productivity of both individuals and groups, create inefficiency, and lower the standard of living. In all cases, the elimination of accidents becomes vital to public interest.¹

The traditional definition of safety is:

- The condition or state of being safe, freedom from danger or hazard; exemption from hurt, injury or loss.
- Incapable of doing harm, no longer dangerous, in secure care or custody.²

We encourage you to let the members in attendance search the station for five minutes and report back on the situations they found that may produce or contribute to an accident and how they would correct it.

¹ Excerpt from the National Safety Council Philosophy, Accident Prevention Manual for Industrial Operations, 7th Edition, National Safety Council, Chicago, IL.

² Hyperdictionary, “Safety” reference Webster’s 1913 Dictionary, Webnox Corp. 2002-2003.

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.**
2. **Commentary on how to prevent the incident.**
3. **Review of any related departmental standard operating guidelines that may apply.**
4. **Have a short open dialogue on the subject with your personnel.**

VFIS references:

[https://secure.glatfelters.com/vfis/vfisresourcecenter.nsf/\(vfiweb-viewlist by category anonymous new\)/48BFCD1A6261DE06852572AA003F5E31/\\$FILE/NFPA+1500new.pdf](https://secure.glatfelters.com/vfis/vfisresourcecenter.nsf/(vfiweb-viewlist%20by%20category%20anonymous%20new)/48BFCD1A6261DE06852572AA003F5E31/$FILE/NFPA+1500new.pdf) **NFPA 1500 Fire Department Occupational Safety & Health Program Worksheet**

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http://www.vfis.com/pdf/VFISnews08-3_web.pdf **Safety 101 – Back to Safety Basics**

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