



## 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.

# ENTERING THE REHABILITATION UNIT

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Rehabilitation is the rest, rehydration, nutritional support and medical monitoring of emergency responders and fire department members during emergency incidents.

Emergency responders and commanding officers may need to help personnel maintain a level of physical endurance in order to perform at an emergency. Rehabilitation practices may help personnel perform those duties.

Consider putting standard operating guidelines in place for actions that occur when entering rehab.

Upon entry to rehab, personnel will:

- Surrender accountability tags
- Doff SCBA, helmets, hoods, turnout coats and other personal protective equipment.

Medical personnel will obtain and log entry vital signs on the rehab tag as follows:

- Pulse
- Blood pressure
- Oral temperature
- Pupils
- Skin color/temperature
- General physical status/observations

Have a discussion about the rehabilitation process. While your system may have some tweaks to this process, does your rehabilitation procedure include these basic components? If not, who should be contacted to assure they are integrated into your system?

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.

### SCENARIO

1. Review any existing protocols, strategic approaches or SOGs on this topic prior to conducting the *Tailboard Training*.

2. Ask a member to review the last incident where this scenario may have existed.
3. Have the group discuss the actions that were taken.
4. Were they done in a safe manner?
5. Were there any actions taken that could have been done differently?

NOTE: Most “after action reviews” such as this develop a number of suggestions that actions should have been or should be done differently. The officers need to balance this immediate reaction to the reality of the situation. Was the outcome positive or negative? Would the outcome have changed if actions were done differently? Should any additional safety precautions have been taken? If so, how and what?

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 occurred or could occur.**
2. **Commentary on how to better deal with this issue**
3. **Review of any related departmental standard operating guidelines that may apply**
4. **Have a short open dialogue on the subject with your personnel.**
5. **VFIS References:**
  - VFISU online course [Rehabilitation](#)
  - Emergency Responder Safety Course [www.vfis.com](http://www.vfis.com)
  - [NFPA 1500 Checklist](#)

**VISIT [www.vfis.com](http://www.vfis.com) FOR MORE INFORMATION**