



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.

ASSIGNMENT TO THE REHABILITATION SECTOR

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

Emergency responders and the commanding officers are responsible to maintain a level physical fitness in order to perform at an emergency. Rehabilitation practices may help personnel perform those duties.

Assignment to the Rehab Sector generally includes:

- All firefighters must report to Rehab following the use of two 30-minute SCBA bottles (or 1 depending on local preference)
- A company officer may assign a member to rehab at any time
- Any time a member feels any injury or stress (physical or mental)
- Personnel assigned to rehab will follow department accountability procedures when they move to the rehab sector.

Many time firefighters are reluctant to report to rehab, fearing they will miss the opportunity of the fire-fight. However, personal safety is paramount. Have a discussion about the rehabilitation process. Does your rehabilitation system include these components? Has a member not followed the protocol? If there is non-compliance, 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 actually occurred**
- 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
 - [NFPA 1500 Checklist](#)

VISIT www.vfis.com FOR MORE INFORMATION