



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.

ACCOUNTABILITY PROCEDURE

The purpose of an emergency scene accountability program is to *account* for all firefighters, at any time, within the most dangerous area of an incident. The use of a Personnel Accountability System may provide enhanced personnel safety for the individual firefighter and provide the incident command organization staff an improved means to track and account for personnel and their whereabouts within the danger area.

Establish and implement a Standard Operating Guidelines to be used as an accountability training tool for members and officers. This process can be used at incidents to help enhance the accountability and improve tracking of firefighters in the danger area.

Review your specific procedure with members at this time. The key is not what system you have in place but to have a system, know it, practice it and use it.

Should members arrive via personal or departmental small vehicle, put in place a provision for accounting for them as well. This may help assure that no one enters the danger area without being accounted for.

Of the incidents you responded to over the last six months, which of these incidents did you have a need for accountability? Was an accountability process established? Were these accountability practices effective?

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:**

Emergency Responder Safety Course www.vfis.com

[NFPA 1500 Checklist](#)

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