



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.

WEARING ISSUED PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

There is a fundamental premise to managing risk at any level. First, try to avoid the risk. If it can't be avoided, try to prevent an accident from occurring. However, if the accident can't be prevented – it's important to provide personal protective equipment to reduce the impact of the loss.

This approach to managing risk RELIES on an emergency service organization's ability to provide quality personal protective equipment, train personnel on its use, maintain it and implement a policy for it to be worn.

Chances are, a particle in the eye might not occur if eye protection is worn. Chances are, smoke inhalation may not occur if a self contained breathing apparatus is worn. Chances are, injuries could be minimal from exposure to hot items if bunker gear is worn.

Personal Protective Equipment for the fire service is driven by standards that establish minimum levels of performance and are intended to reflect firefighter needs. They are developed by individuals representing end users, labor unions, manufacturers, research and testing laboratories and special experts. However, the standards are only valuable if the products are suitably made and personnel wear the protective equipment when necessary.

A constructive discussion on the use or non-use of personal protective equipment is considered of value. Related posters and notices on bulletin boards also work to remind members of the issues and corrective actions.

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:

http://www.vfis.com/pdf/Personal_Protective_Equipment_Checklist_0906_000.pdf
PPE Checklist/Form

<http://www.vfis.com/pdf/Self-ContainedBreath.Appar.Log.pdf>
SCBA Inspection Log

<http://www.vfis.com/online-store-firefighter-ems.htm> PPE Poster

<http://www.vfis.com/online-store-firefighter-ems.htm> Firefighter Safety

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