



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.

STAY SEATED AND BELTED WHEN THE VEHICLE IS IN MOTION

It’s important to continue to remind officers and firefighters of the need to be seated and belted when an emergency vehicle is in motion.

Each year, line of duty injuries and deaths occur because personnel are not seated and/or not belted. When the vehicle is in motion, it’s possible that responders come into contact with equipment, the inside of the vehicle or, in the event of a crash, become ejected from the vehicle.

Firefighters and rescuers often see the devastation to individuals who are involved in vehicle accidents and are not wearing seat belts. These individuals are reliant on responders to arrive safely to help them. It’s important for emergency responders to lead by example in hopes the public are safe when they drive.

Offer a constructive discussion on the types of injuries that may have occurred in your organization or related fatalities that may have occurred from not wearing seatbelts. Related posters and notices on bulletin boards also serve as reminders 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:**

[Seat Belt Safety Class](#)

[International First Responder Seatbelt Pledge](#)

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