



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.

Firefighter accidents and injuries, causes and cures: Scenario 1

Firefighting (and EMS) has been defined as one of the most dangerous professions in the world – some say it is *THE* most dangerous. However, those employed in mining, construction and open water fishing may disagree and their statistics may be more definitive than data for firefighter and EMS personnel accidents, injuries and illnesses.

It’s important to be aware of how fire and EMS members are injured or become ill in order to help prevent those incidents from occurring. Try starting at the most basic common denominator – TAKING PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY. Do that by understanding how members can incur an illness or injury and work to prevent it.

This Tailboard Training addresses injury, illness or a cause of an injury or illness that members may encounter. The objective is to understand that anyone may suffer this type of illness or injury and it’s important everyone works to prevent it.

Accomplish this is with an understanding of the nature of injury or illness, the cause and method of prevention and assuring members are aware of it and take appropriate preventative actions. So, at the next Tailboard Training session:

Review the department’s risk management or safety manual. It is current? How is it used? Are members fully aware of the information and actions that need to be taken? What can be done differently to enhance safety in the organization?

Have a discussion about the department’s safety and risk management processes. Is the system pre-defined? How is this type of incident identified, controlled via prevention or limitation of the loss. Is training effective to help prevent the injury or illness? What can be done better or differently?

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:**

[Firefighter Safety Program](#)

[Firefighter Safety – It’s Your Responsibility](#)

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