



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 injury cause: *PPE failure in fires*

It’s been said numerous times before, “firefighting is a dangerous occupation.” The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that approximately 80,000 injuries occur annually to firefighters. Data analysis further tells us that there were few incident reports indicating firefighter personal protective equipment (PPE) as a contributing factor to the reported injury.

Over the years, there have been significant advances in

- Design enhancements in personal protective equipment
- Standards for the manufacture and maintenance of personal protective equipment
- Equipment replacement cycle

Of those incidents where personal protective equipment was indicated as a contributing factor to the injury, data shows **gloves, wristlets, positive pressure breathing apparatus (SCBA)** and **hoods** accounted for 32 percent of the equipment problems.

**How does this relate to your organization’s experience?
If you have not experienced this in your organization, discuss
what you could do to help prevent this type of injury.**

While our mission as fire and rescue personnel is to save lives and property, if we are not physically able to do the job, we cannot fulfill our mission. In these situations:

Recognizing how to prevent injuries and illnesses is EVERYONE’S responsibility.

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 Posters and Training Courses](#)

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

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