



VFW Post Insurance Program

Loss Control Article

Alcohol Server Training: Making a difference for your Post

Posts that sell or serve alcohol face many risks. If one of your employees or members serves alcohol to a minor or visibly intoxicated patron, the results could be serious. Not only could you face administrative and criminal fines and penalties, but you could also be sued in civil court for damages that person might cause after leaving your establishment. However, by taking one simple step, you can make a difference for your Post and maybe even save a life.

What is alcohol server training?

As a result of the continuing debate regarding responsibility for alcohol-related accidents – the drinker, the server or both – a number of educational programs offering server training to establishments selling or serving alcohol have been developed in conjunction with liquor control, law enforcement, highway safety and substance abuse organizations. Several nationally recognized programs are available, including TIPS (Training for Intervention Procedures – www.gettips.com) and TAMS (Techniques of Alcohol Management – www.tamusa.org). In addition, a handful of states have started offering their own server training, often free of charge.

How can you find out more?

While there are only approximately 15 states currently requiring server training, it is a valuable tool for Posts that can help save money, promote safety and build employee awareness. If your Post is in the business of selling or serving alcohol, the VFW Post Insurance Program encourages you to contact the organizations listed above, your local alcohol distributor or state Liquor Control Board to find out what your particular state requirements are and what programs are available to you. Take the time now to go the extra step and start making a difference for your Post and maybe even save a life!

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