

How to Conduct a Tailgate Talk

A Tailgate Talk is a brief training session on a single safety topic, typically held around the tailgate of a truck or another convenient spot. It should last 10-15 minutes with a small group of workers.

KEY POINTS

- Choose one safety topic per session.
- Keep it short and concise.
- Hold sessions with 6-10 workers.
- Ensure the location is comfortable and safe.
- Allow time for questions and answers.
- Document the training.

CHOOSE SAFETY TOPICS

- Focus on recent events or ask employees for suggestions.
- Use newsletters and local news for additional ideas.

PLAN LOGISTICS

- Limit sessions to 6-10 workers.
- Hold sessions earlier in the week (avoid Monday mornings).
- Conduct sessions weekly, dedicating specific time for training.
- Keep sessions under 15 minutes.

PREPARE AND CONDUCT THE SESSION

- Include visual aids and handouts.
- Familiarize yourself with the materials beforehand.
- Keep the presentation informal and avoid technical jargon.
- Involve workers in the discussion.
- Allow time for questions and have workers sign a training acknowledgment sheet.



Contact Us

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Louisiana's Tailgate Talk Series

Preventing Tractor Collisions with Motor Vehicles on Public Roadways



The Louisiana Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Center serves training needs of local transportation agencies.

We are part of the Louisiana Transportation Research Center (LTRC), which is a cooperative effort between the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Louisiana State University (LSU).

Timely Safety Briefings

Tractor Roadway Safety: Important Precautions

Tractors are not designed to operate as over-the-road vehicles. The danger of driving tractors on roadways should be recognized by operators and several recommendations should be followed to help reduce the chances of a collision or other roadway incident

Use Trailers

- Use trailers to haul tractors to other locations instead of driving the tractor on the road.

Keep Travel To A Minimum.

- Keep travel on public roadways to a minimum.
- Travel when visibility is good. Avoid travel during darkness.

Use Lighting, Reflectors & Flaggers.

- Provide front and rear lighting if travel during darkness is necessary.
- Display slow moving vehicle emblems and have reflectors.
- For additional safety consider using of flaggers.

Use Police Escort For Long Trips.

- Use a rear and forward escort on busy roads. Use police escort for long trip or groups of equipment.

Assuring that Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) and seatbelts are in good condition on every tractor would greatly reduce the risk of tractor-related fatalities.

ROPS used with seatbelts save lives.

A tractor operator's best way to prevent collisions with motor vehicles on public roads is to ensure maximum visibility. This is crucial due to the significant difference in travel speeds. For instance, a car moving at 50 mph will rapidly approach a tractor traveling at just 20 mph. If the driver first sees the tractor from 400 feet away, they have less than 10 seconds to react, assess the situation, gauge the tractor's speed, and decide on a safe course of action. Making the tractor as visible as possible helps alert drivers early and reduces the risk of accidents.

Resources

Safe Tractor Operations: Road Safety for Tractors and Farm Machinery

<https://abe.ufl.edu/media/abeufledu/ag-safety/docs/pdfs/AE601.pdf>

How to Avoid Vehicle Collisions with Farm Equipment & Tractors

<https://www.fhvlaw.com/blog/2018/july/how-to-avoid-vehicle-collisions-with-farm-equipm/>

Safe Tractor Operation: Driving On Highways

<https://agsafety.tamu.edu/files/2011/06/SAFE-TRACTOR-OPERATION-ON-HIGHWAYS1.pdf>

Tailgate Talk Resources

Louisiana LTAP

<https://www.ltrc.lsu.edu/ltap/tailgate-talks.html>

NLTAPA

<https://nltapa.org/informationexchange/nltapa-tailgate-talks/>

T2 Tailgate Talks

https://www.cti.uconn.edu/cti/T2_Tailgate_Talks.asp

