

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.



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Louisiana's Tailgate Talk Series

Six Tips for Chainsaw Safety



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

Six Tips to Ensure Safety When Using Chainsaws:

1. Never Use With A Dull Blade.

The blade should always be sharpened and the chainsaw should always be oiled. If you fail to do so, you will increase your chance of getting injured.

2. Use A Chainsaw With Standard Safety Features.

Chainsaws include a stop switch, chain catcher, spark arrester, and hand guards. The chainsaw should also have a chain brake that will quickly stop the chain from moving even when operating at full speed.

3. Wear Proper Personal Protective Equipment (Ppe).

Wear proper safety equipment which includes a hard hat with hearing protection and face shield. Safety glasses are also recommended. Wear sung-fitting leather work gloves and chaps.

4. Only Cut At Waist Level And Below.

You should never operate a chainsaw over your head because it's too unsafe. If you need to reach something that's over your head, you should use a ladder to reach it safely.

5. Have An Escape Route Already Planned.

The ideal route to take is 45 degrees from the direction you expect the tree to fall. You should also make sure there is nothing that can trip you while making your escape.

6. Refuel Your Tool.

If the chainsaw runs out of gas during operation, you shouldn't refuel it immediately. Instead, you should let it cool down. AND, you must not smoke while refueling.

Resources

Working Safely With Chainsaws

<https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/chainsaws.pdf>

CDC Natural Disaster and Severe Weather - Chainsaw Safety

<https://www.cdc.gov/natural-disasters/safety/chain-saw-safety.html>

OSHA Quick Card

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/3269-10N-05-english-06-27-2007.html>

Chainsaw Safety Training

<https://www.ltrc.lsu.edu/ltap/training.htm>

Guidelines for Cleaning Safety After a Disaster

<https://www.cdc.gov/natural-disasters/safety/index.html>

ArborMaster

<https://www.arbormaster.com/types-of-training>

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

