

# 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/Mower Rollovers



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**

# How to Prevent Tractor/Mower Rollovers

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Rollover/overturns have been the number one type of fatal tractor incident. These outcomes can be devastating to companies / agencies and families. They are largely preventable by following some key guidelines. All tractors are fitted with a rollover-protective structure (ROPS) and seat belts to protect the operator in the event of an overturn. Newer types of ROPS exist that may work with tractors that must frequently operate under overhead obstacles.

## Use Caution, Slow Down.

- Use caution when operating tractors on or near sloped terrain, embankments, or ditches.
- Reduce speed when crossing slopes, turning at the end of a row or towing equipment and implements.

## Watch Out For Steep Or Slippery Slopes

- Do not operate on slopes that are too steep or slippery.
- Back up steeper slopes, if they cannot be avoided.

## Tow From The Rear If...

- Keep front-end loaders low, and hitches low and on the drawbar. Only tow loads from the rear hitch.

## Add Front Weights If...

- Match the tractor to the size of the load. Add front weights, if necessary to balance the implement and load.

## Train Operators.

- Ensure that operators are trained on how to safely operate a tractor.

## *To reduce your chance of a side rollover you should practice road safety measures :*

- Drive at appropriate speeds
- Set wheel tread as wide as you can
- Stay away from steep slopes, ditches and embankments
- Keep your front-end loaded buckets low during transport and turns
- Lock your brakes together when traveling at higher speeds
- Drive forward down steep slopes and back up them

# Resources

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## Safe Tractor Operation: Rollover Prevention

<https://agsafety.tamu.edu/files/2011/06/SAFE-TRACTOR-OPERATION-ROLLOVER1.pdf>

## Preventing tractor rollovers: OSHA publishes guide

<https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/18013-preventing-tractor-rollovers-osa-publishes-guide>

## Safe Tractor Operation: Driving On Highways

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

# Tailgate Talk Resources

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## 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](https://www.cti.uconn.edu/cti/T2_Tailgate_Talks.asp)

