

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

Preventing Tractor/Mower Runovers



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 Runovers

Runovers are the second leading cause of fatal tractor-related accidents and recordable incidents. A review of cases showed that several simple actions can help prevent these from occurring.

Don't Start Unless...

Before starting a tractor, be sure it is not in gear, parking brake is applied all levers are set in neutral.

Avoid Bypass Starting

Start the tractor's engine from the operator's seat. Do not start the engine while standing beside the tractor. Avoid bypass starting.

Operate From The Seat

Operate the tractor from the operator's seat. Do not stand or sit on any other part of the tractor while it is in motion.

Buckle Up

The first thing to do when in operator's seat is to put on seat belt and keep it on while operating.

Do not get on or off a tractor in motion.

Avoid Bystanders

Do not allow anyone to walk or run beside a tractor while in motion.

Engage Safety Devices

Remove ignition key and engage safety devices before doing maintenance.

Install "Dead Man" Seat Brake

Consider installing a "dead man" seat brake that operates when seat is vacated, similar to that which is used in forklifts and other industrial equipment.

Resources

How to Avoid Tractor Runovers and Collisions

<https://www.teamtractor.com/blog/how-to-avoid-tractor-runovers-and-collisions--33358>

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

