

# 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

## Traveling Through a Work Zone 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

# To Protect Workers And Road Users, Follow These Tips For Safe Travel Through Work Zones

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## Be Prepared

Before hitting the road, check phone apps, transportation agency websites, and the radio for the latest traffic information.

## Wear Your Seatbelt

Seatbelts save lives. They are your best defense in a crash.

## Stay Focused

Watch the road and not your phone. Work zones can change daily; pay attention so you can anticipate new traffic patterns.

## Be Alert And Watch For Workers

Be aware of all activity occurring around you, including paying attention to other drivers and road workers.

## Slow Down And Don't Tailgate

Obey the posted work zone speed limits and keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead of you.

## Obey Road Crews And Signs

Cones, barrels, and warning signs help facilitate the movement of traffic. Flaggers are there to get you safely through the work zone.

## Share The Road

When you see passing work crews and official vehicles with flashing warning lights, move over to allow them to pass. It's the law.

## Use Caution Around Large Vehicles

Large vehicles have a slower reaction time, so refrain from making sudden lane changes in front of trucks that are trying to slow down.

## Resources

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### National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse

<https://www.workzonesafety.org/>

### FHWA Work Zone Management

<https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/index.asp>

## 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)

