

# 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

## 10 Most Common Factors That Cause Accidents



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**

# 10 Most Common Factors That Cause Accidents

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## 1. Negligence

Neglecting basic safety rules or failing to maintain equipment can lead to accidents. Always follow safety instructions and check equipment before use.

## 2. Anger/Temper

When emotions like anger or frustration take over, it can lead to irrational decisions and unsafe actions. Stay calm and think before acting.

## 3. Hasty Decision

Making quick decisions without thinking through the consequences often leads to dangerous shortcuts. Always take a moment to assess the situation before acting.

## 4. Indifference

Lack of focus or daydreaming can cause accidents. Stay alert and fully engaged with the task at hand.

## 5. Distractions

Distractions, like family issues or horseplay, can interfere with your work. Minimize interruptions and maintain concentration while performing tasks.

## 6. Curiosity

Sometimes, workers may be tempted to try something unexpected just to see what happens. Avoid taking unnecessary risks out of curiosity—safety should always come first.

## 7. Inadequate Instructions

Lack of proper training or unclear instructions can lead to unsafe work practices. Ensure you receive proper training and ask questions if unsure.

## 8. Poor Work Habits

Cluttered work areas or loose clothing can create tripping hazards or interfere with safe work practices. Keep your workspace organized and ensure your attire is appropriate for the job.

## 9. Overconfidence

Feeling overly confident or “macho” can lead to risky behavior and neglect of safety measures. Always respect the dangers of the job, no matter your experience level.

## 10. Lack of Planning

Failing to plan for tasks and relying on others without clear communication can lead to mistakes or accidents. Proper planning and coordination are key to preventing accidents.

# Resources

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## Common Workplace Injuries and How they Impact Employees

<https://www.employmentlawhandbook.com/workers-compensation/common-workplace-injuries-and-how-they-impact-employees/>

## OSHA’s “Fatal Four” – Leading Causes of Fatalities in the Workplace

[https://www.bing.com/search?q=accidents+on+the+job&cvid=2c4cfcee003c4cd9963c8dc7b2378ec7&gs\\_lcrp=EgRIZGdIKgYIABBFGDkyBggAEEUYOdIBCDI0OTZqMGoxqAIAAsAIA&FORM=ANAB01&adppc=EdgeStart&PC=U531](https://www.bing.com/search?q=accidents+on+the+job&cvid=2c4cfcee003c4cd9963c8dc7b2378ec7&gs_lcrp=EgRIZGdIKgYIABBFGDkyBggAEEUYOdIBCDI0OTZqMGoxqAIAAsAIA&FORM=ANAB01&adppc=EdgeStart&PC=U531)

## 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)

