

WORK ZONE SAFETY TIPS



Work zones are a necessary part of the life cycle of our streets, roads, and highways. They provide a safe area for workers and a safe route for road users around needed road work activity (construction, maintenance, utility). Although work zones play a critical role, they can also be a major cause of congestion and delay.

Across the nation, a total of 754 lives were lost in 2018. In Louisiana, there were 519 injuries, with two reported fatalities.

TO PROTECT WORKERS AND ROAD USERS, FOLLOW THESE TIPS FOR SAFE TRAVEL THROUGH WORK ZONES:

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.

OBHEY 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.

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:

NLTAPA <https://nltapa.org/information-exchange/nltapa-tailgate-talks/>

Louisiana LTAP www.louisianaltap.org

Work Zone Safety Training

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

Louisiana's Tailgate Talk Series

TIMELY SAFETY BRIEFINGS





HOW TO CONDUCT A TAILGATE TALK

Tailgate Talk is a gathering of small group of workers around the tailgate of a truck or other spot for a brief training session on a single safety topic. Consider using the "Tailgate Talk" concept to help you conduct 10-15 minutes of training sessions with your crew.

KEY POINTS:

- Choose one safety topic per session.
 - Be concise. Keep it short.
 - Keep the sessions small.
- Meet in a comfortable & safe spot.
- Allow time for questions & answers.
 - Document the training.

CHOOSE SAFETY TOPICS

- Pick topics related to recent events.
- Ask employees for their ideas.
- Read newsletters and local news for more information. Use them for additional ideas.

PLAN LOGISTICS

- Limit sessions to a small number of workers. Six to 10 is a good number.
- Hold sessions early in the week, but not on Monday mornings.
- Conduct tailgate training sessions an average of once a week. Dedicate specific time for the training.
- Limit sessions to only 15 minutes.
- Be on the lookout for weather forecasts or any emergencies.

PREPARE YOUR PRESENTATION

- Use a one-page fact sheet provided on www.t2center.uconn.edu
- You may use materials provided by Louisiana LTAP www.louisianaltap.org
- Look for visual aids and/or props.
- Photocopy handouts ahead of time.
- Familiarize materials a night before.

CONDUCT THE SESSION.

- Keep your presentation informal.
- Don't use words your employees won't understand.
- Involve your workers in discussion of the topic.
- Allow time for questions at the end.
- Have workers sign a sheet showing they were trained and keep it on file.

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