

OUR DRIVING CONCERN

TEXAS EMPLOYER TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM

A PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL



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The **Safety Coach** and **Tailgate Talk** are quick and easy tools to help you keep your employees safe on the road.

Safety Coach is designed for an office setting. You can use these resources at a staff meeting, or incorporate into email communications and newsletters.

Tailgate Talks allow you to take the message on the road and connect with your employees in the field.

Visit our website for resources

www.txdrivingconcern.org

Know someone who would benefit from receiving this? [Add them](#) to our email list.

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Safety Coach

Start the conversation:

Did you know one out of four vehicle collisions can be blamed on poor backing techniques. Backing collisions cause 500 deaths and 15,000 injuries per year. The use of safe vehicle backing tips by employers and employees can help prevent collisions while on-and-off the job.

Here are some guidelines to develop habits that help prevent backing collisions:

- Avoid backing whenever possible.
- Get to know your vehicle's blind spots. Remember, mirrors don't give you the whole picture.
- Be aware that steep inclines add to the difficulty of seeing behind a vehicle.
- Use a spotter. Have your passenger, or anyone nearby, guide you and ward off pedestrians or other vehicles until you have pulled away.
- Honk twice to warn everyone that you are going to back up.
- Think and plan in advance. Don't put yourself into unnecessary backing situations.

Share this:

Minivans, SUVs and trucks can have the biggest blind zones behind them, with the longest at nearly 70 feet! Share this video, [to see how see how 62 children can fit in a vehicle blind zone!](#)

Tailgate Talk

Back-over crashes happen for a variety of reasons and are especially common in larger vehicles –Texans love trucks—which have blind areas that make it impossible for drivers to fully see behind the vehicle while backing up. Drivers may not be able to see another worker or vehicle in their blind spot. Drivers may assume that the area is clear and not look in the direction of travel.

Review these prevention tips with your coworkers, and encourage them to discuss and share their own tips or experiences.

- Walk 360° around your vehicle before driving.
- Back slowly. This will let you make corrections before you get too far off course.
- Use the mirrors. Back to the driver's side so you can see.
- Use a spotter, and stop immediately if you lose sight of a spotter.
*Note: Do not give additional duties to spotters. Do not allow spotters to use mobile devices or personal headphones when working. Provide high-visibility clothing for spotters, especially when working at night.
- Establish safe practices for night work requiring high-visibility gear.
- Design worksites to minimize backing vehicles and equipment.
- Ensure daily communication on-the-job to discuss any changes or revisions in construction traffic flow.

Questions?

Contact [Lisa Robinson](#), CFLE, Program Manager, Texas Employer Traffic Safety Program, (512) 466-7383