

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

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Questions?

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(512) 466-7383.

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Keep your employees safe.
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Safety Coach

Industry is booming, and while that's great for the economy, it has presented some new challenges and dangers while driving on Texas roadways. With some trucks hauling as much as 80,000 pounds it's important for all drivers to appreciate how to drive around large trucks and truck-tractor combinations.

We must remember that these trucks require more acceleration and deceleration time than an average passenger vehicle and can have blind spots in multiple locations. Use the resources below to help communicate this safety messaging in your organization:

- Play a [Radio PSA](#) during your next safety talk
- Print [brochures](#) for your reception area
- Post the [Four Blindspots image](#) to your social media

Don't hang out in the
NO-ZONE

Tailgate Talk

There's no doubt about it, Texans love trucks! But we're not always good about showing them some love on the roadways when it comes to sharing the road responsibly.

The following safety tips should be applied in general, but are particularly important around large trucks and vehicles:

1. **Pass Safely** After you pass, make sure the entire truck appears in your rearview mirror before returning to the lane. Trucks

#SafetyJourney

a passenger car. If you move into that space and brake suddenly, the truck may not have enough time to stop safely.

Rule of thumb: Always leave at least four car lengths between the back of your car and the front of any large truck you pass, before returning to the lane.

2. **Stay out of the "No Zone"** or the areas around large trucks in which crashes are more likely to occur. Because of a truck's size, there are [four large blind spots](#) where cars disappear from the driver's view. Avoid lingering in these areas whenever possible.

Rule of thumb: If you can't see the driver in the truck's side mirror, the driver can't see you or your vehicle.

3. **Avoid Tailgating** A severe collision can result when a car hits the rear end of a truck. Large trucks and the trailers they pull do not have impact-absorbing bumpers. Additionally, the truck's metal bumpers may not align with those of your car

Rule of thumb: Leaving 20-25 car lengths between your vehicle and a truck will provide the space you'll need to stop safely during an emergency or traffic slow down. That following distance also allows you to see ahead of the truck and react to any change in driving conditions.

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