



TAILGATE SAFETY

ROAD SAFETY – DEFENSIVE DRIVING

What weighs around 2 tons, can easily cover a distance of over 80 feet in about a second, can strike with an impact that penetrates walls, fences or other objects and is sometimes considered to be a "deadly weapon." It gets you to work, takes your children to school, and is a handy convenience. Nearly all of you have one--and drive one....

A vehicle, whether it's a company vehicle or personal transportation, can be a deadly machine in the hands of a careless driver. Operation of a vehicle must be taken seriously--this powerful device must be used with respect. Driving is not a "right," but a privilege. A good defensive driving attitude is the key to your safety on the road. Here are some tips that may help you be a better "defensive" driver:

- Always use your seat belt. Airbags do not prevent you from being flung from an automobile during an accident.
- Adjust your seat(s), mirrors, radio station, etc. prior to driving so all your attention can be focused on the road and the vehicles around you.
- Heavy, loose objects (tool box, brief case, loose tools, etc.) in the vehicle can injure the driver or passenger if you must perform evasive maneuvers to avoid an accident. Secure loose objects in the vehicle.
- Mobile phones are a distraction. Pull over for lengthy conversations.
- Never drink and drive, especially if you are assigned a company vehicle (this is cause for termination from the company).
- "Blind spots" are exactly that, areas that are difficult see when driving a vehicle. Be alert, look all ways, and always use your turn signals when changing lanes.
- Keep a safe stopping distance behind the vehicle in front of you. You should be able to prepare to stop within 2 seconds, whatever your speed. Remember, it takes the average person about 3/4 of a second to recognize a hazard after it is first seen and another 3/4 of a second to switch from the accelerator to the brake pedal. At 55 mph, your vehicle covers a distance of more than 80 feet per second. You will have traveled about 120 feet before you actually began to brake.
- Concentrate on your driving, rather than personal problems or your work. It only takes a split second for conditions on the road to change.
- Aggressive driving and road rage is not acceptable behavior especially in a company vehicle. Keep a cool head.
- Know and obey all traffic rules, regulations and laws.

Defensive driving can save your life and the life of loved one's. Always pay attention when driving on your own time and our time.

Training Tips: a) Outline specific company policies regarding vehicle use and safety; b) Ask for examples from your employees of near miss incidents or actual accidents



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