



DRIVING & FLEET SAFETY

TOOLBOX TALK: Driving & Fleet Safety

RATTLIR Safety Series – “Strike Before It Bites”

Purpose

Driving is one of the highest-risk activities employees perform, whether operating company vehicles, traveling between job sites, or transporting equipment. This toolbox talk highlights critical fleet safety principles to reduce collisions, protect personnel, and maintain a safe and professional presence on the road.



Common Driving Hazards

- Distracted driving from phones, radios, or in-cab screens.
- Reduced visibility from weather, sun glare, or low-light conditions.
- Fatigue—especially early mornings, long shifts, or long-distance travel.
- Speeding or following too closely.
- Poor vehicle condition such as worn tires or low tire pressure.



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- Unsecured tools or cargo shifting during transport.

Prevention Strategies

- Maintain a minimum following distance of 3 seconds in dry conditions; increase to 4–6 seconds in rain, snow, or fog.
- Conduct a quick pre-trip inspection: tires, lights, mirrors, fluids, and load securement.
- Avoid all mobile device use while driving – even hands-free conversations reduce awareness.
- Use headlights in low-light, construction zones, or anytime visibility drops.
- Slow down in poor conditions and avoid sudden braking or steering.
- Plan routes ahead of time and identify high-risk intersections or traffic patterns.
- Take breaks during long trips to prevent fatigue-related incidents.

Emergency Response

- If an incident occurs, stop in a safe location, activate hazard lights, and assess for injuries.
- Notify emergency services if needed and follow company reporting procedures.
- Do not move vehicles unless necessary for safety or directed by law enforcement.
- Document road conditions, vehicle damage, and contributing factors.
- Report mechanical issues immediately and remove unsafe vehicles from service.

Discussion Questions

- What driving hazards are most common on our routes or job sites?
- What steps can we take to improve following distances and visibility?
- Are there any vehicle concerns we need to address before traveling today?

RATTLIR Takeaway

Driving risks can escalate quickly, but most incidents are preventable. By staying alert, practicing defensive driving, and keeping vehicles in top condition, we can strike before it bites – protecting ourselves and others on the road.