Driving safety toolbox talk

29 CFR 1926.601, 1926.21

Date _____ Trainer _____ Location _____

Opening question

Who here drives for work, even if it is just between jobsites or out to pick up materials?

Why it matters

Driving is part of the job for a lot of us, and it is easy to treat it like a break. A vehicle is heavy equipment moving at speed, and one bad second can hurt you or someone else. Good habits on every trip are what get everyone home.

Key points

1. **Put the phone away**
   Put your phone out of reach before you start the engine. Set your GPS and music before you move, and pull over somewhere safe if you need to call or text. Eating, reading paperwork and reaching for things on the floor take your eyes and mind off the road too.

2. **Buckle up every trip**
   Wear your seat belt on every trip, even a short one across the jobsite, and make sure everyone riding with you is buckled before you move. OSHA's construction motor vehicle rule requires seat belts and anchorages to be installed in all motor vehicles it covers.
   29 CFR 1926.601(b)(9)

3. **Drive defensively**
   Look well ahead, check your mirrors and blind spots, and expect other drivers to make mistakes. Keep your speed right for the road, the weather and the traffic, even if that means going under the limit. Leave enough space to stop if the vehicle ahead stops suddenly, and add more room in rain, fog or darkness.

4. **Do not drive drowsy**
   Fatigue slows your reactions and can put you to sleep at the wheel before you realize it. If you are yawning, drifting or missing exits, pull over somewhere safe and rest, or switch drivers. Plan long drives with breaks, and speak up if a schedule does not allow enough sleep.

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5 Check your vehicle every shift

On a construction jobsite closed to public traffic, every vehicle in use must be checked at the beginning of each shift. The check covers brakes, tires, horn, steering, seat belts, operating controls and safety devices, and any defect must be fixed before the vehicle goes into service. Secure loose tools and materials so they cannot fly forward in a hard stop, and keep your driver's license with you.

29 CFR 1926.601(b)(14)

6 Back up with a plan

Backing up is risky because you cannot see much behind you. On a construction jobsite closed to public traffic, a vehicle with an obstructed view to the rear may be used only if it has a reverse alarm that can be heard above the surrounding noise, or if it backs up only when an observer signals that it is safe. When you can, park so you can pull out forward.

29 CFR 1926.601(b)(4)

Scenario

Picture this: A crew lead is driving a loaded pickup between two jobsites. Their phone buzzes with a message about a delivery, and they glance down to read it. The truck ahead brakes hard for a turning car, and a loose toolbox slides off the back seat into the footwell. What could the driver have done differently before and during this trip?

Crew discussion

1. What distracts you most when you drive for work, and how can we cut it out?
2. What do you check on your vehicle before the first trip of the day?
3. Where on our sites do vehicles back up with a blocked view, and who acts as the spotter?
4. What should you do if you are too tired to drive safely?

Bottom line **Phone away, belt on, speed down, and check your vehicle before you roll.**

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Sign-in sheet / Hoja de asistencia

Topic / Tema Driving safety / Seguridad al conducir

Date / Fecha _____

Trainer / Instructor _____ Location / Lugar _____ Company / Empresa _____

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