



Tailgate Safety Talk

Information You Can Use to Prevent Accidents & Injuries

Aggressive Drivers

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, highway crashes continue as the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities accounting for one-fourth of the fatal work injury total. The Department of Transportation estimates that aggressive driving causes two-thirds of traffic accidents. Of the 187 million drivers in the U.S., 53 percent clearly expressed anger to another driver at least twice a year. If you have employees who spend time behind the wheel, they may be at risk of becoming an aggressive driver, or a victim of one.

CAUSES

Congestion is a leading cause of aggressive driving. Clogged highways, tight schedules, and no way out of a jam can turn mere irritation into physical violence. Some common behaviors of other drivers that may elicit anger in an aggressive driver include the following:

- Tailgating, cutting off, failing to yield, or driving too fast or too slow.
- Eating, applying makeup, or using a cell phone while driving.
- Stealing a good parking spot.
- Riding in the passing lane at a slower speed than traffic.

SOME SOLUTIONS

You and your driving employees can avoid becoming a victim of an aggressive driver by following a few tips:

- Allow enough time for the trip—it'll ease the risk of stress.
- Don't cut off another driver; use your turn signal to indicate your intentions.
- Move over and let faster drivers pass you if you are in the left lane.
- Do not tailgate; allow at least a two-second space between your car and the car ahead.
- Do not make obscene gestures.
- Give aggressive drivers room—steer clear of them.
- Avoid eye contact with aggressive drivers.
- Do not give in to the challenges of an aggressive driver, or allow yourself to become one.

Users of this tailgate talk are advised to determine the suitability of the information as it applies to local situations and work practices and its conformance with applicable laws and regulations.