

# TOOLBOX TALK



DATE:

Risk Control at UFG Insurance | riskcontrol@unitedfiregroup.com | 800-828-2705

# Tips for merging, driving in traffic and backing to reduce crashes

#### PRESENTER:

#### SITE:\_\_

Welcome to today's toolbox talk! To promote a safe, injury-free work environment, we'll take a moment to ensure our teams understand potential hazards (and how to prevent them) before the start of the shift.

## AGENDA

- Overview of relevant safety policies/procedures.
- Discuss team questions/concerns.
- Review recent incidents/near misses.

## TOPIC



Construction work zones present hazards like uneven road surfaces, moving workers, operation of heavy equipment, materials storage, etc. Unfortunately, accidents and fatalities continue to rise, making it even more critical to have safe driving practices in place within work zones. These may include:

- Slow down.
- Follow all work zone signs, signals and signalers.
- Be aware of changing traffic patterns and alert to vehicles entering your blind spots.
- Keep a sharp eye out for road workers.
- Maintain extra following space.
- Always be prepared to stop.

## **Tips for backing**

Before backing, walk around your vehicle before getting into the driver's seat, be sure to adjust your mirrors and look out over the work site. When your pathway is clear and you are ready to back up, do so slowly and cautiously. You should also check your back-up alarm daily to ensure it is working properly.

## Merging and driving in traffic

When entering traffic:

- Size up the traffic.
- Signal early and watch for your opening.
- Build up speed.
- Watch mirrors.
- Observe alerts from on-board safety systems with blind spot detection, if equipped.
- Look for oncoming traffic.





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#### **Team questions:**

- 1. What are some common hazards that you find at a construction site that you must navigate safely? (Answers may include crews not aware of vehicles and equipment, equipment operators not aware of oncoming vehicles, uneven road surfaces, etc.)
- **2.** Name some ways that you navigate the worksite safely. (Answers may include use caution, slow down, ask a coworker to spot for you as well as stopping others from entering your roadway, etc.)

#### Remember: Always report any unsafe conditions or practices.

## ATTENDEES (PLEASE CLEARLY SIGN YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME)


#### SUPERVISOR/SUPERINTENDENT SIGN OFF:

DATE:\_

#### **SOURCES:**

https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/tips-truck-and-bus-drivers

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