



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

PRESENTER: _____ **DATE:** _____

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.



