

# Driver Operator Safety

*This Everyday Safety Tailgate Talk was originally published as part of the September 2017 training series “The Safety Pins” by Phillip E. Spiezio, Safety Officer of Washington County NY*

The safety of our workers is the highest priority! The way you drive says much about you and your organization. Make a positive impact by following these work-related safe driving practices:

- Use your seat belt at all times
- Be well rested, avoid taking medications that make you drowsy and never drive while impaired by alcohol or drugs
- Dedicate your full attention to driving. Avoid distractions such as eating, talking, or texting on the cell phone
- Drive safely per the road conditions – drive the speed limit or slower....
- Continually search the roadway or job site to be alert for situations requiring quick action
- Keep your cool in traffic
- Drive defensively. Be seen - Turn on your lights in low light conditions
- Be patient and courteous to other drivers
- Follow only one spotter or signaler
- No matter how difficult, do not take other driver’s actions personally
- Never become complacent
- Expect the unexpected
- Always be sure your truck/equipment is in safe condition
- Always be sure your truck/equipment is safely loaded



**Action Item:**

**Related Topics:**

- Heavy Equipment
- Mower Safety
- Trenching Safety

**Resources and References:**

OSHA Guidelines for Employers to Reduce Motor Vehicle Crashes  
[https://www.osha.gov/Publications/motor\\_vehicle\\_guide.html](https://www.osha.gov/Publications/motor_vehicle_guide.html)

