

# See Your Blind Spots!

## Tailgate Exercise

This one pager is intended to serve as a guide to facilitate a tailgate / toolbox talk on **Driving** and **Line of Fire** hazards related to blind spots around work vehicles, especially pickup trucks.

**Why do this?** Multiple recorded vehicle collisions with fixed objects and collisions with workers on foot in industry. **Driving** and **Line of Fire** are Life Saving Rules, and reducing exposure to these hazards can prevent serious injuries and fatalities.



**Objective:** Raise awareness of blind spots around vehicles / mobile equipment and tactics to reduce collisions with fixed objects and pedestrians.

**What you'll need:** Tape measure, various size cones or other portable objects varying in height from ~1-3' tall, one small flat object (preferred brightly colored) that can sit at roughly ground level (e.g., a book, marker flag), 2+ people, and a work vehicle / mobile equipment.

### Exercise 1: Blind spots beneath the bottom of driver line of sight

- One person in driver seat, and one person with a tape measure outside passenger door.
- If there are other participants, have them guess how far away the various objects would need to be away from the passenger door before the driver can see it.
- Place the flat object on the ground and move it away from the vehicle until the driver can see it. Measure the distance. You can also do this with taller objects, especially if they are objects that might be used during work (e.g., tool box, sampling equipment).
- Hold tape measure in place in a way that represents the bottom of the driver's line of site to the flat object (see photo 1). Everything under the tape measure represents the driver's blind spot.
- Repeat the exercise with the flat object placed in front of the vehicle (see photo 2).
- **Ask:** Based on planned work zones and access routes, what objects are most likely to be struck (people, equipment, etc.)? How can we reduce the risk?
  - *Facilitate this conversation* – let the team come up with possible solutions. Items such as 360 degree walkarounds, the use of spotters, or marking/flagging fixed hazards in a way to make them more visible to the driver may be discussed, among other items.



Photo 1



Photo 2

***None of the objects below the red line are visible to the 5' 9" driver***