



## SAFETY MEETING PLANNER & AGENDA

### HAZARDS OF LOOSE OBJECTS IN THE VEHICLE

#### Meeting Leader:

- Prepare in advance to make this meeting effective.  
Go to the Thinking Driver website for instructions on how to best use this information. ([www.thinkingdriver.com/thinking\\_driver\\_tailgate\\_topics.php](http://www.thinkingdriver.com/thinking_driver_tailgate_topics.php))
- Print & read over this agenda.
- Think about how you want to lead the meeting.
- Is there anything that is specific to your company or operation that you can include to personalize the information?
- Review the video for this session.



Hazards of Loose  
Objects in the Vehicle -  
Tailgate Topics & Tips

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wq7UJ-N-JNQ>

**NOT A SUBSCRIBER YET?** You will see a watermarked sample. Get the 'clean' video for your meeting now by visiting the Tailgate Topics & Tips page on the Thinking Driver website ([www.thinkingdriver.com](http://www.thinkingdriver.com)) to get the order form and fax/email to Thinking Driver ([kristy.gittens@thinkingdriver.com](mailto:kristy.gittens@thinkingdriver.com)). We will send you a link to the non-watermarked video.

Save the link to the video in your favourite folder on your browser for easy access.

Open and then minimize the viewer just before the meeting to make the video introduction smooth.

## START YOUR MEETING!

### Opening Statement:



In any collision, there is a primary and a secondary collision. The primary one is the contact with another vehicle or object. The secondary ones include all of the collisions between the vehicle occupants and the vehicle itself or the cargo. These can result in serious injury or death.

### The Questions for this Meeting:

Q: What are some things that we might find inside our driver compartment that could be loose and fly around in a crash?

#### Good Answers Include:

1) **People:** Yes, people who are not properly restrained by seat belts. The secondary collision in this case will be these unrestrained occupants in the vehicle itself or other occupants (passengers, children, pets). It is this collision that is most often fatal when people are killed in crashes.

2) **Tools or Tool Boxes:** Metal or heavy plastic tool boxes can cause devastating injuries in a crash.



3) **Lunch Boxes**

4) **Laptop Computers/Tablets:** A 25 year old woman in Delta, BC died after the small car she was driving was hit by a tow truck turning left. When investigators looked into the incident, however, they concluded that she would have survived if not for



her laptop computer which she kept in a backpack on the back seat.

“What we believe happened [was] that she was struck in the back of the head and neck with this laptop computer,” RCMP Sgt. Roger Morrow said at the Surrey detachment, east of Vancouver.



#### 5) **Groceries:** How could groceries possibly cause injury?

A one-litre bottle of water could hit with a weight of 20 kilograms. When a car decelerates violently, the force of gravity can mean a loose object packs 20 times the punch it would normally.

### Tailgate Tips:

The bottom line is that anything with mass that is loose in the vehicle is a hazard and may become deadly in a crash. It is worthwhile to take a moment and secure loose objects before travelling. So what might be some strategies?

1) Make sure that everyone in the vehicle is wearing an occupant restraint (seat-belt).

2) Place objects in the trunk if you drive a car or the box if you drive a pick-up truck or van.



3) Secure objects in the cargo area if protected from the cab by a screen.

4) If these are not possible, keep cargo or other items low, near or on the floor.

5) Shifting loads: if you are carrying heavy equipment or cargo, ensure that it is properly tied down and secure.

### Summary:

Loose objects in your passenger compartment can transform from benign harmless articles to lethal projectiles in an instant. Think about how you are stowing everything from groceries to tools to briefcases and computers before you set out on your trip because in a crash, you already have enough problems without getting bashed on the head by a metal lunchbox!

## Introduce the Video:

In this video segment, Spencer McDonald, Thinking Driver President, discusses the hazards of loose objects in the passenger compartment of your vehicle.

## Practical Session

Take the group out and have a look in a few vehicles to identify potential in-cab projectiles and discuss remedies.



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