

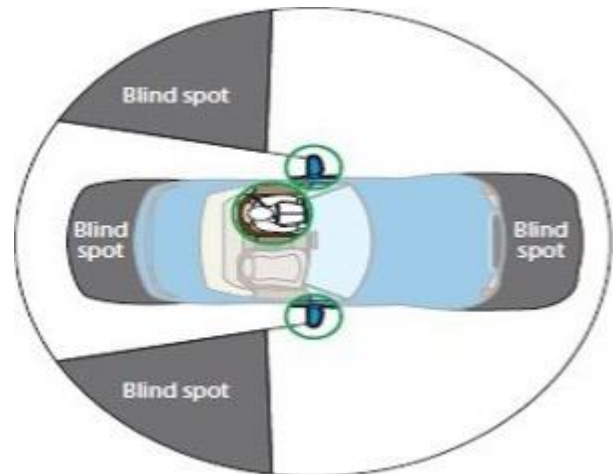
## Managing Blind Spots

Use this guide to talk with employees about the dangers of driver blind spots. It can help them understand where blind spots are in the vehicles they use and avoid being in the blind spots of other drivers. Use any of the suggested key points in your talk. Ask meeting participants to share their experiences. Use the form on Page 3 to record meeting details. Consider printing this guide and giving it to drivers.

### Why is this topic important?

#### Key points

- Work-related motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause or traumatic workplace fatalities in BC
- It's hard to avoid what you can't see. Mirrors help you see hazards, but they aren't enough on their own
- Safe driving habits and properly adjusted mirrors will help you see more hazards on the road



ICBC Learn to drive smart manual, 2015

### What are blind spots?

#### Key points

Blind spots are areas around your vehicle you can't see from your mirrors or without turning your head. Every vehicle has them.

- Everything outside your field of vision and peripheral vision is a blind spot
- Small or poorly adjusted vehicle mirrors can increase blind spots. Design features on your vehicle can impair your vision. Long or high hoods, canopies, or thick roof supports can all increase blind spots

### Why are blind spots hazardous?

#### Key points

Blind spots take away crucial information you need to make safe decisions. This can lead to incidents such as:

- Opening a door into a cyclist
- Changing lanes into another vehicle
- Hitting a pedestrian at an intersection or crosswalk
- Hitting a vehicle, object, or person while reversing

## How can you manage blind spots?

### Key points

#### Learn where your vehicle's blind spots are

To find out, sit in your vehicle in an empty parking lot. Have someone walk around the vehicle and use chalk to mark the nearest distance where you can see their feet. Get out and connect the chalk marks to get an idea of your blind spots are.

#### Adjust your mirrors

Set the rear-view mirror so you see straight out the rear window. Set each side mirror so it's just past the point where you can see the side of your vehicle.

#### Perform shoulder checks

Proper shoulder checks give you a better picture of what's around you. Shoulder check when changing lanes, merging with traffic, turning at an intersection, backing up, leaving a parking space, or opening your door.

#### Use active scanning

Active scanning is a technique where you constantly check your surroundings for hazards. Active scanning includes:

- Looking far enough ahead to identify hazards before you get to them
- Periodically checking to your left and right
- Checking your mirrors every 10 seconds

#### Take advantage of tools and technology

Convex mirrors are a proven way to reduce blind spots. Blind spot detection systems warn drivers if someone is in their blind spots.

#### Be visible – avoid blind spots

Knowing the blind spots of your vehicle can help you understand the blind spots of other vehicles. Use that knowledge to stay where they can see you on the road. Commercial vehicles have even larger blind spots to avoid.

## Tailgate meeting activities and resources

- Review tips for making necessary [adjustments to mirrors](#)
- Customize the [Driver's Seat and Mirror Adjustment Procedure Template](#) and Implement it at your workplace
- Visit [Road Safety at Work](#) for more road safety information for employers, supervisors, and drivers

# Tailgate Meeting Guide



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## Tailgate meeting record form:

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Location:</b>
<b>Supervisor:</b>	<b>Discussion leader(s):</b>	
<b>Topic:</b>		
<b>Handouts:</b>		
<b>Discussion:</b>		
<b>Follow-up item:</b>	<b>Completion date:</b>	
<b>Follow-up item:</b>	<b>Completion date:</b>	
<b>Follow-up item:</b>	<b>Completion date:</b>	
<b>Follow-up item:</b>	<b>Completion date:</b>	
<b>Follow-up item:</b>	<b>Completion date:</b>	

## Notes:

## Tailgate meeting participants:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>

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