

# VLR SAFETY TAILGATE TALK

February 2016

*Subject: "BE PREPARED"*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*-The Snow Fighter's Motto*

Location (garage, mm, etc...):

Instructions:

Safety Coordinators & Supervisors should use this Tailgate Talk as a guide for discussion during their safety meetings. The primary purpose of the safety meetings is to give crews the opportunity to discuss any safety related concerns they may have.

Once the meeting has concluded, the Presenter should have each employee sign this form and include their Employee ID# in the spaces below.

TGT Presenter: \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Employee
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"BE PREPARED" - The Snow Fighter's Motto

**PROBLEM:** Snow and ice control provides the most stressful test of VTrans and municipal people and equipment. You know that when a snowstorm hits your part of the state, it usually seriously upsets everyone's daily routine. Being prepared for a snow emergency means proper maintenance and safety checks of you equipment before the storm.

**WHAT WE CAN ALL DO:** Check all the basics—your windshield wipers play an important part of safe operation of your vehicle, so make sure they are in good condition. Check the heater and defrost because if they're not working properly, you'll be in serious trouble.

Every light on the vehicle has a purpose, whether it's a directional signal, a warning signal or lights to show you the way. They should all be checked out and working—and cleaned off. Just as important are correctly inflated tires, an operating horn, backup alarm, hydraulic system that's working efficiently, and the fuel tanks topped off.

Carefully inspect the use of plow blades periodically during your shift. If blade wear begins to eat into the mold board, it will be very costly to replace. Remember, blades don't wear evenly because our plows are reversible and show wear on either side, depending on where the blade is run.

Make sure that the hydraulic system is shut down when you need to get an auger, spinner, or moving part of the plow. This is an area where a number of injuries happen every winter. Don't become a victim of a pinch-point injury. Everyone is needed during a snow emergency because without you, the roads aren't going to get any better!

**If you have any questions or comments regarding this Safety Tailgate Talk or any safety related concerns, please contact the VTrans Safety Team.**