

VLR SAFETY TAILGATE TALK

January 2015

Subject: Diesel Fuel

Date: _____

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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Diesel fuel is commonly used in construction machinery, industrial machinery and generators.

There are three primary concerns associated with diesel fuel:

- **Flammability:** Diesel fuel is not nearly as flammable as gasoline or other common fuels (such as ethanol or propane), but it can catch fire and be very difficult to extinguish. Do not smoke around diesel fuel.
- **Skin exposure:** Diesel fuel can be absorbed through the skin very easily. It can cause skin irritation, redness and even burns. If the diesel is not cleaned off, it will absorb into the skin and cause symptoms identical to inhalation.
- **Inhalation:** If diesel vapors are inhaled it can cause dizziness, nausea and increased blood pressure, among other symptoms.

What can you do to limit the harmful effects of diesel fuel?

- When fueling diesel powered vehicles or machinery, do so in a well ventilated area.
 - If vehicles must be used indoors or in enclosed spaces, extra ventilation should be provided to remove diesel exhaust.
 - Wear gloves when working with diesel! **Viton gloves** have been shown to be most effective in protecting against diesel exposure.
- ⇒ DO NOT USE VINYL OR BUTYL rubber gloves with diesel, as they offer no protection.
- Maintain diesel vehicles and routinely check emission control devices.

Questions to generate discussion:

Diesel fuel is not as flammable as other fuels. Why should it be treated with the same caution as highly flammable materials?

Why should we make efforts to protect our skin when working with diesel fuel?

What areas of this workplace represent the greatest concern in terms of potential exposure to diesel exhaust?

What can you do to help minimize diesel exposure in the workplace?

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