



Tailgate Topic #7 - Circle Check

How often do you walk around your vehicle before moving it?

A circle check is mandatory before putting your vehicle into service, at the beginning of the day and any time before backing up, if you have been parked and this is the first motion you are making.

The Question for this Meeting:

Why is a walk around or circle check a good idea?

There are many reasons but how many can we identify?

Tailgate Answers:

- Walking around and checking vehicle condition can identify vehicle defects and safety concerns before you begin driving; in particular, the tire condition.
- A circle check gives you the opportunity to check the operation of lights and signals.
- If you are backing up (or moving forward in a vehicle with restricted visibility to the front) a circle check will allow you to notice obstructions or hazards in your immediate area that may cause a conflict when you begin moving.



Purchase 'Circle Check' decals at
www.thinkingdriver.com

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Get the 'clean' video for your meeting by visiting the **Thinking Driver** website at www.thinkingdriver.com/thinking_driver_tailgate_topics.php Navigate to bottom of the page to 'Order the professional version of Tailgate Topics and Tips' and choose **Download order Form** get the order form and fax/email to Thinking Driver @ kristy.gittens@thinkingdriver.com. We will send you a link to the non-watermarked video.



Question:

What is your excuse for not doing this quick and important safety check?



Discuss Answers.

Tailgate Tips

When you do your circle check, before the start of your day or shift, use a system.

It could be:

- Unlock and start the vehicle.
- Turn on headlights and left turn signal.
- Begin by walking clockwise around the vehicle and check:

- 1 Each tire, as you pass it, for damage, cuts or obvious problems including low pressure.
- 2 Headlights, tail lights and turn signal operations.
- 3 Glass and mirror cleanliness and condition.
- 4 Look for damage on any part of the vehicle and report it if found *BEFORE* driving.
- 5 After arriving back at the driver's door, click your headlights to high beam, change the turn signal to the right signal and walk to the back and front to check the headlights high beams and right signal.
- 6 If you have backed in near a wall or fence, check your own brake lights by looking for the reflection when you press the pedal, otherwise get someone to check when you apply the brake.

- And most important, if your vehicle is in the driveway at home, or there are children around, check for kids playing around the vehicle. Every year in North America, over 200 children are killed when *BACKED OVER* in their own driveway by parents, relatives or neighbours.

Practical Challenge:

Make this month CIRCLE CHECK MONTH and make a concerted effort to circle check.

Agree as a group to watch each other and remind those that forget. Agree to not take offence if you get reminded. Get the boss and office staff involved too!

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