



Tailgate Topic # 17 - Walk Around Your Vehicle At Home!



It's spring and the kids are starting to play outside again.

You may live in a subdivision with many families and lots of kids or in an area with fewer kids. You may park in a garage or just in the driveway or street. One major hazard that you may have never considered before are the neighbourhood kids (including your own) and what they may be doing around your vehicle while it's parked.

Every year in North America up to 250 children are killed when they are backed over at home. Most are hit by a parent, relative or close family friend.

The Questions for this Meeting:

How could this possibly happen?

What scenarios can you imagine?

Answers:

- Mom or Dad backs the car from the driveway and their child or another is behind but can't be seen.
- Someone backs out of a garage where the door has been closed but doesn't check the driveway outside the door before moving.
- A parent checks behind the car, before starting to move, but the child runs out behind the car to wave goodbye.

Think about your parking situation at home and imagine how this could happen.



Has anyone here ever backed over a toy or bicycle left in the driveway?

- Discuss responses



Many organizations set policies designed to reduce backing incidents in company vehicles, like walking around or circle checking before moving a vehicle and backing in to park or ensuring that the first movement is forward when starting off from a parked position. These practises are equally effective and even more important at home where your kids or neighbour kids may be around.

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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.



Tailgate Topics & Tips



Tailgate Tips:

- Think about where kids may be hiding around your vehicle. Not just behind. A small child can easily be hidden in front of your vehicle and not seen as you move it.
- Walk around your vehicle before moving it. At least go as far as you need to in order to see the path that the vehicle will take as you leave.
- When you are parking at home, back into the driveway so that your first movement is forward.
- If there are children around, take note of where they are before entering your car and keep them in sight as you move.
- When leaving home and saying bye-bye to toddlers, make sure that they don't follow you out for one last wave from the driveway. Have an older child or adult ensure that they stay off the driveway.



- Teach your children early on that playing around cars is not a safe place even if they are not moving or are parked.
- Educate your neighbours about this serious hazard.
- Choose a vehicle with good visibility out the back and minimal blind spots.



Practical Challenge:

- Tonight, when you get home, do a RISK ASSESSMENT of your driveway and how you and your partner park vehicles.
- Develop a family prevention plan to make sure that no children (yours and anyone else's) can be hurt by a moving vehicle in your driveway.
- Go to the website www.kidsandcars.org/back-overs and share this link with your family and friends and on your Facebook page.

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