

Tool and Equipment First-Round Winner

Innovations Challenge

April 2017

Prepared by Transportation Planning
Missouri Department of Transportation

Tailgate Latch Guard



Description

The Tailgate Latch Guard prevents employees from using the tailgate latch pin as a handle to open and clear a clogged up tailgate. The rubber coated chain handles added at the lowest and most outward corners of the tailgate provide a safe and more ergonomic handle to pull a tailgate open. The unit was used for 2016 hot- and cold-mix operations, and material build up was not an issue.

Benefit

Hand and finger injuries caused by tailgates are usually significant. The Tailgate Latch Guard innovation greatly improves safety by eliminating a significant pinch point on the tailgate and by providing another handle that has better leverage for opening a truck tailgate. Pull tests proved that it takes less force to open the tailgate thereby reducing back stress. It saves the department money by eliminating injuries and simplifies work by reducing physical stress on employees.

Materials and Labor

1 hour of staff time with \$15 per unit in materials.

For More Information Contact:

Dave Eppright at David.Eppright@modot.mo.gov or (816) 813-1510. Alternate contact: Cliff Everts at (660) 351-1081.

Additional photos or videos can be seen by accessing the Innovations Challenge SharePoint page at: <http://sharepoint/systemdelivery/TP/Documents/InnovationsChallenge.aspx>.