



# LOSS CONTROL NEWSLETTER



## SEASONAL CHANGE = INCREASED EXPOSURE

An unusually warm winter has accelerated seasonal changes, quietly increasing risk during the first part of the year. Unpredictable temperatures, early allergy season, and changing road conditions impact alertness, driving safety, and indoor workplace conditions.

Employees may experience fatigue, congestion, or medication side effects that reduce focus—especially when driving or performing safety-sensitive tasks. Indoors, air quality, moisture, and housekeeping issues can contribute to slips, trips, and reduced productivity. Here's a few tips to increase safety:

- Reinforce situational awareness as weather and conditions change
- Remind drivers that health, fatigue, and medication can impair reaction time
- Maintain HVAC systems and address indoor hazards promptly
- Encourage early reporting of near misses and safety concerns

## MEET BUCKNER'S LOSS CONTROL EXPERT JOSH SCHULTZ

As the Director of Loss Control Services at the Buckner Company, Josh has vast knowledge of the importance of managing risk, and educating our clients on why it's important.

# Ladder Safety: Reducing Fall Risks at Work and at Home

Ladders are widely used at work and home, but remain a leading cause of preventable injuries. Even short, routine tasks, such as changing lights or accessing storage, can result in serious falls when ladders are used incorrectly.

## Why Ladder Safety Matters

- Falls can cause fractures, head injuries, and lost work time
- Many incidents happen during quick, everyday tasks
- Improper ladder choice, setup, or overreaching increases risk
- Home ladder injuries can still affect productivity and claims

## Common Ladder-Related Hazards

- Using the wrong ladder for the task
- Placing ladders on uneven or slippery surfaces
- Overreaching or leaning
- Carrying tools while climbing
- Failing to maintain three points of contact

## Ladder Safety Best Practices

- Use the correct ladder type and height
- Inspect ladders before use
- Set ladders on stable, level surfaces and secure when possible
- Keep three points of contact and face the ladder
- Never stand on the top step unless designed to do so

## A Safety Reminder

*Encouraging ladder safety on and off the job helps prevent injuries that impact employee well-being and business operations. A few moments of awareness can prevent serious injuries and long-term losses.*



# Cargo Spill Prevention: Reducing Roadway Risk

Cargo spills occur when materials fall, shift, or leak from a commercial vehicle during transport. These incidents can involve equipment, building materials, packaged goods, agricultural products, livestock, or hazardous materials. Regardless of the cargo type, spills create serious safety hazards for drivers and surrounding motorists and often result in traffic disruption and emergency response.

Beyond immediate safety concerns, cargo spills can lead to operational delays, cleanup costs, regulatory action, and liability exposure. Preventing these incidents is a key part of transportation loss control.



## Common Causes of Cargo Spills

Most Cargo spills typically involve one or more of the following factors:

### Improper Loading

- Loads that are unbalanced, overloaded, or poorly distributed can affect vehicle stability. These conditions increase stress on braking systems and tires and raise the risk of loss of control or rollover incidents.

### Inadequate Cargo Securement

- Even properly loaded cargo can become a hazard if it is not secured correctly. Straps, chains, tie-downs, and binders must be appropriate for the cargo type and in good condition to prevent shifting during turns or sudden stops.

### Vehicle Condition and Driving Behavior

- Mechanical issues, lack of maintenance, speeding, distracted driving, or aggressive maneuvers can contribute to high-severity events such as jackknives or fishtailing, which often result in spilled cargo.

# Cargo Spill Prevention: Practical Risk Reduction Strategies



Trucking and transportation operations can reduce cargo spill exposure by focusing on these key practices:

- Verify proper loading, weight distribution, and securement for every load
- Inspect vehicles and securement equipment before and after trips
- Address worn or damaged equipment immediately
- Reinforce defensive driving and speed management expectations
- Provide ongoing training on cargo handling and spill prevention
- Maintain compliance with applicable DOT and FMCSA requirements

## SAFETY REMINDER

*Cargo spills present serious safety, operational, and financial risks. Consistent loading practices, proper securement, well-maintained vehicles, and safe driving behaviors can significantly reduce the likelihood and impact of these incidents.*

# FUTURE LOSS CONTROL CLASSES

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Check out our Eventbrite for our future Loss Control Classes. Click the button below to access them.

For questions about any upcoming classes, please reach out to Josh Schultz at [jschultz@buckner.com](mailto:jschultz@buckner.com)

[2026 Class Sign Up](#)



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