

District 7 News

Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Clarendon, Hampton and Orangeburg counties

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Got news?

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Tailgate safety training teaches operators how to do job better, safer

One of SCDOT's goals is to provide a safe and productive work environment for SCDOT employees, along with a strategy to promote workforce safety throughout the state. Related to these objectives Deputy Secretary for Engineering **Leland Colvin** outlined on Jan. 20, 2021, a memo called *SCDOT's Dump Truck Tailgate Safety Initiative*. The primary objective of this safety initiative is to train SCDOT employees in the safe handling, removal and re-installation of dump truck tailgates and to limit the potential for injury.

As a part of this initiative, dump trucks are outfitted with

D-rings to facilitate safe removal and reinstallation of the tailgate. These D-rings are installed by certified welders and are welded to ASME D14.1 standards for lifting devices. Warning stickers are also applied to each tailgate identifying pinch points. A video presentation with commentary by SCDOT employees effectively details the process and illustrates the unfortunate consequences of tailgate-related injuries.

On April 7, 2021, Orangeburg Maintenance employees participated in a tailgate safety training session with a demonstration of these procedures. During this training session employees discussed a newly revised Job Hazard Analysis form with added emphasis on personal safety (pinch points) and equipment safety (tailgate chains).

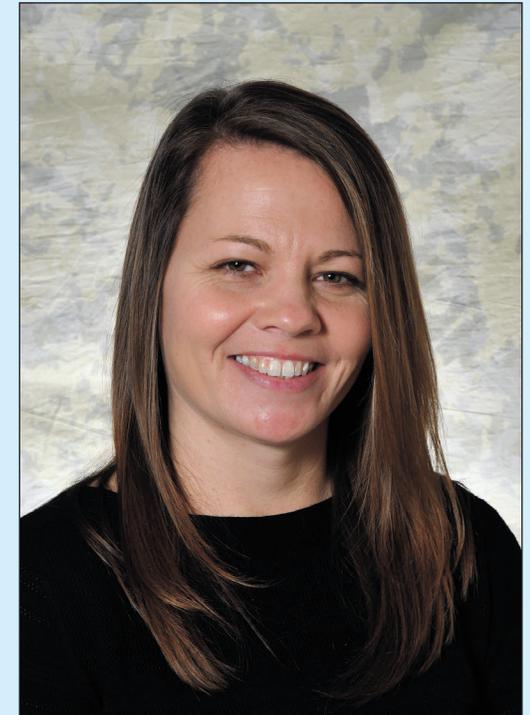


Orangeburg Maintenance employee Vincent Morris uses grade 80 chains to steady the tailgate while backhoe operator Randy Brunson lifts the tailgate.



Orangeburg Maintenance employee Patrick Turner carefully removes tailgate pins.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DANNY SIMMONS/DISTRICT 7



Ashleigh Sandel

Special thanks to Ashleigh Sandel

District 7 Engineering Administrator **Kevin Gantt** retired from SCDOT in April. On April 17, **Ashleigh Sandel** was selected to serve as Acting District 7 Engineering Administrator for three months until **Jeffrey Terry** was selected to fill the position permanently.

Sandel has 17 years of experience at SCDOT and was mostly recently serving as Assistant to the Chief Engineer for Operations. Thanks to Sandel for stepping up and filling in at the District 7 Office!

See **Jeff Terry's** promotion on page 11.

View a tailgate safety video from SCDOT at:

<https://youtu.be/YqHGQilEzJs>