

## Tailgate talk

Today's Subject:

### **Drum safety**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Because it's a task that might not appear potentially harmful at first, it's tempting to overlook the dangers of handling drums. However, moving drums can lead to injuries such as crushed limbs, chemical exposures, or back sprains.

#### **What to focus on**

Here are four things to keep in mind when working with drums.

**1. Identify the contents.**

Before you handle a drum, look at the label to determine whether the substance inside is dangerous, toxic, or flammable.

**2. Check for leaks.** If the contents are leaking, don't clean it up unless you're qualified to do so and you know the substance isn't dangerous.

**3. Replace missing items and fasten loose bungs.** Prior to moving a drum, make sure to replace missing plugs or lids. In addition, you should tighten loose bungs and valves to ensure the drum is fully secured.

**4. Use mechanical assistance when possible.** Plan ahead and decide whether you're capable of moving the drum by yourself or if you need help. Don't try to lift a full drum by yourself, because a 55-gallon drum can weigh between 400 and 800 lbs.