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SMOHIT Safety Sense Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry

Flat Tires

- Inspecting tires for damage or poor inflation prior to driving can avoid flat tires on the road. However, should you experience a flat tire or tires while driving, there are several important steps you should take to safely react:
- Quickly realizing that you have a flat tire will provide more reaction time.
 Even a couple seconds of reaction time can be helpful. The following are warning signs of possible tire failure:
 - Sound—A blowout is often associated with a loud bang. It can take a couple of seconds for a vehicle to react to a blowout, so never assume that the "loud bang" came from someone else's vehicle.
 - Vibration—Your vehicle may begin to thump or vibrate violently if you have a flat tire. This may be your only sign of a flat tire if it is a rear tire that has blown.
 - Feel—If the steering wheel feels heavy, or you have a difficult steering the vehicle, it may be sign of a flat tire. Sometimes if a rear tire is flat, the vehicle may "fishtail."
- Once you realize you have a flat tire, hold the steering wheel firmly. A
 front flat tire can sometimes twist the steering wheel from your grip.
- Do not use the brake. Braking may seem like a natural reaction, but braking while you have a flat tire could cause you to lose control of the vehicle. Unless you are about to hit something, let off the gas and allow the car to slow down on its own.
- After coming to a complete stop, step out and inspect all the tires. This
 should be done if you experience any of the above conditions, even if
 the vehicle seems to be handling well.

Instructor Tips

 Ask workers to recall times when they experienced getting a flat tire while driving.

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Reference: DOL 29 CFR 500.100