



# Kansas LTAP Fact Sheet

A Service of The University of Kansas Transportation Center for Road & Bridge Agencies

## Tailgate Hoist / Rack Saves Time (and it is Safer)

By Lisa Harris



Douglas County, Kansas, public works employees built a simple tailgate storage rack with a swinging boom and chain hoist to lift tailgates off trucks to install sanders on the truck beds before a snow event. Before building the rack, crews moved tailgates around with forklifts and stacked them on the ground. "The one on the bottom was always the one you needed," said Larry Wilson, assistant operations manager. However, if a storm hit quickly, tailgates would be removed quickly and would not get stacked—then get covered with and obscured by snow—a safety hazard. The boom and hoist help remove and store the tailgates in one location, vertically, and also aid in getting the tailgates back on the trucks.



Out of the rack and back on the truck: Wilson attached a chain to the ring on the back of the tailgate and pulls on the hoist's chain hand-over-hand to shorten it and lift the tailgate out of the rack.



Manoeuvring the tailgate is easy once the chain supports it. The boom moves freely and the tailgate can be positioned where needed.



This close-up view of the rack shows a tailgate stacked at the right end of the rack, and slots available for other tailgates. Wilson said the slots are wide enough for a tailgate plus an inch or so extra. "You want a good fit, but not too tight," he said.

All photos KUTC / L. Harris

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