

TAILGATE SAFETY

**SAFETY
FIRST**

The FGI believes it is important to always put safety first.
Our **Tailgate Safety Program** is a safety training resource for construction and other high hazard industries.

Safety training for the job site & the office!

Burnout Is a Safety Hazard - 5/8/2026 - FGI Safety Tip

Burnout doesn't just affect morale — it affects judgment, focus, and jobsite safety. In the geosynthetics industry, fatigue shows up long before someone says they're struggling. It appears in missed details, short tempers, poor communication, skipped steps, and slower reactions. On a liner installation or fabrication crew, that can quickly become a quality issue, equipment issue, or injury risk.

Watch for the Warning Signs

- Repeating simple mistakes that would normally not occur.
- Trouble concentrating during welding or testing procedures.
- Increased frustration or conflict on-site between crew members.
- Working through breaks 'just to finish' — skipping recovery time.
- Physical exhaustion that doesn't improve overnight after rest.
- Loss of pride or engagement in the quality of the work.

How Burnout Impacts Safety-Critical Tasks

Fatigue reduces:

- Situational awareness and ability to identify hazards in the field.
- Decision-making ability and consistency in welding and testing procedures.
- Communication between crew members — critical for coordinated operations.

A tired technician is more likely to:

- Miss a failed seam or overlook an environmental change on the liner surface.
- Forget a calibration step or rush through repairs and inspections.
- Ignore early signs of heat stress or dehydration in themselves or teammates.

What Supervisors Can Do

- Rotate physically demanding tasks when possible.
- Encourage hydration and proper recovery time.
- Normalize speaking up about fatigue — no stigma.
- Watch for changes in attitude or performance.
- Schedule realistic production expectations.
- Lead by example — safety includes mental and physical wellbeing.

What Crew Members Can Do

- Speak up before exhaustion becomes dangerous.
- Take breaks before mistakes happen — not after.
- Support coworkers instead of competing through fatigue.
- Pay attention to sleep, hydration, and nutrition.
- Remember: pushing past your limit doesn't prove toughness — it increases risk.

Protect the Liner. Protect the Crew. Protect Yourself. | Safety is everyone's job.