Operation Lifesaver Presents:
In the Interest of Safety
Any Time is Train Time

As you approach a railroad crossing, always expect a train.

Freight trains do not run on a schedule. Trains can run on any track, at any time, from either direction.
Trains Can’t Swerve

Trains don’t have a steering wheel, so they can’t go right or left.
Approximate Stopping Distance

- Car: 200 Ft.
- Bus: 230 Ft.
- Truck: 300 Ft.
- Train: >5280 Ft.

Stopping distance of the average freight train is a mile or more. That’s 18 football fields.

Trains can stop, but they can’t stop quickly.
What Will You Do if You Stall on the Tracks?

1. Get out!
2. Get away from the tracks, even if you do not see a train.
3. Locate the Emergency Notification System sign and call the number provided, telling them about the stalled vehicle.
4. If a train is approaching, run toward the train but away from the tracks at a 45 degree angle. If you run in the same direction a train is traveling, you could be injured by flying debris.

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In case of emergency, look for this blue sign that shows an emergency phone number.

- Call the number and give the Department of Transportation (DOT) crossing number found on the sign to identify your location.
- This sign may be located on the crossbuck post or signal post.
- If you cannot locate the ENS sign, call 911 or the local police.
Active Crossing – Warning Devices

Flashing red lights warn of an approaching train and must be treated like a stop sign.

• At crossings with flashing lights and no gates, you must stop. Proceed only when it is safe to do so.
• Trains always have the right-of-way.
Drinking Around the Gate

• Flashing lights with gates close the road temporarily when a train is approaching.
• Cross only when the gates are up completely and the lights have stopped flashing.
• Driving around lowered gates is dangerous and illegal.
Multiple Tracks

Check for a multiple track sign, which informs the driver how many sets of tracks are at that crossing.

Always make sure all tracks are clear before crossing any track. If there is a train in the crossing, after that train clears, make sure another train is not approaching on any other track from either direction.
There May Not Always Be a Train Horn

Some communities have established Quiet Zones where train horns will not routinely sound.

Look for “No Train Horn” signs that should be attached to the Advance Warning Sign.

For more information on the Federal Train Horn Rule and Quiet Zones, visit [www.fra.dot.gov](http://www.fra.dot.gov).

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Speed Misperception

Because of their size, trains appear to be much further away and traveling much slower than their actual speed.

Airplanes look like they are almost hanging in mid-air but their landing speed is over 150 mph. The effects of the optical illusion are the same with trains.
Three Don’ts

1. Don’t pass on the tracks
2. Don’t shift gears while crossing the tracks
3. Don’t stop on the tracks (it’s illegal)

When you stop, make sure the front and the back of your vehicle are 15 feet from the nearest rail.
Railroad property is private property.

Being on railroad tracks or property without permission is trespassing, even if a sign is not posted.

Taking a shortcut across the tracks can get you seriously injured or killed.
Trespassing

• Recreational activities do not mix with railroad tracks—you are trespassing.

• Listening to music near railroad tracks may prevent you from hearing the train horn.

• Train crews are not expecting people on or near the tracks. You may not be able to hear a warning in time.
Where Do You Cross the Tracks?

Pedestrians should cross tracks at a designated crossing, either where cars cross, or at a pedestrian overpass or underpass.

Use designated sidewalks when available.
Look, Listen & Live

Look both ways!

Listen for the sound of a train!

If you look and listen, you will live!
Thank You