In the Interest of Safety

Operation Lifesaver Presents:
In the Interest of Safety

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It Happens Every Day...

Train pushes car half mile, three people die.

Person Struck and Killed While Walking On Tracks.

Train Collides with Truck at Crossing with Multiple Tracks.
United States Highway Rail Crossing Incidents

- Pennsylvania: 60 (2013), 72 (2014)

Ohio Ranking: No. 8 of all States
Pennsylvania Ranking: No. 11 of all States
West Virginia Ranking: No. 30 of all States
United States Highway Rail Incidents - Fatality

- **US Total**
  - 2013: 267
  - 2014: 231

- **Ohio**
  - 2013: 8
  - 2014: 4
  - Ranking: No. 9 of all States

- **Pennsylvania**
  - 2013: 3
  - 2014: 7
  - Ranking: No. 17 of all States

- **West Virginia**
  - 2013: 2
  - 2014: 1
  - Ranking: No. 33 of all States
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

When traveling at 55 MPH:
- 200 Ft.
- 230 Ft.
- 300 Ft.
- 600 Ft.
- >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.

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A car crushing a can is the same as a train crushing a car.
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.
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.
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.

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Approaching a Passive Crossing

- You may see a round yellow Advance Warning sign that warns drivers that railroad tracks are ahead.
- Pavement markings R X R, may be near the Advance Warning sign.
- There is a no passing zone within 100 feet of the approach to a railroad crossing.
• A passive crossing does not have flashing lights or automatic gates.

• The crossbuck sign, required at all public railroad crossings, means to yield the right of way to the train.

• A painted line identifies the safe place to stop when a train is approaching. If there isn’t a line, stop no closer than 15 feet and no farther than 50 feet from the closest rail.
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.
Driving 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

Multiple Tracks Mean Multiple Trains

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.
Hump Crossings

• Due to close clearance to the road, trucks and many trailers are prohibited from using these crossings.

• When you see this warning sign, find another way across the tracks.

• Be aware that crossings may not have this sign, so pay attention to the roadway at all times.
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.
Trains can carry loads that are wider than the railroad cars themselves. They can have chains, straps, or other equipment swinging loose from the train. If you are standing too close, you could get hit.
Overdriving your headlights means driving too fast to stop in the distance illuminated by the headlights. This can result in collisions when motorists run into the side of a train. Watch for an Advance Warning Sign then slow down and be prepared to stop if a train is approaching.

Always expect a train!
Multi-tasking behind the wheel can be dangerous and even deadly—this is especially true around train tracks.

Avoid driving when tired or after drinking alcohol or taking medications (prescriptions or over the counter) that can blur your vision, cause drowsiness, and impair reaction time.

When approaching railroad tracks, keep your full attention on the road and your surroundings.
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.
Walking on railroad tracks is dangerous and illegal.

- Many people believe they will always hear a train coming, but some trains are silent and difficult to hear.
- Engaging in conversation, speaking on a cell phone, and listening to music are all potentially deadly distractions.
- Trains can run on any track, at any time, from either direction.
- Walking, lying, or sitting on the tracks can cause injuries and even death.
- Tracks are for trains, not for people—Stay Off! Stay Away! Stay Alive!
Tunnels, Bridges, and Trestles

Railroad bridges, tunnels, and trestles are private property—enter and you are trespassing.

If you are trespassing on a bridge with a train approaching, you have two choices: **jump or get hit.** Tunnels, bridges, and trestles are only designed for trains.
Where Do You Cross the Tracks?

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

Stay behind the stop line or at least 15 feet from the tracks.
Train and Car Collisions

- Two construction workers were late for work.
- They approached a properly operating railroad crossing with the gates down.
- After waiting for the train to pass, they drove around the lowered crossing gates thinking it was safe.
- They were struck by an oncoming train on the other tracks.

Never drive around lowered gates.
Train and Truck Collisions

Collisions between tractor-trailers and trains cause severe damage. This truck was shoved a great distance from the crossing.

Reasons a tractor-trailer could get hit by a train:

• The driver may fail to look for an oncoming train.
• The driver may try to beat the train.
• Low clearance can cause the trailer to get hung up on the tracks.
See Tracks? Think Train!

The Matchup That Doesn’t Add Up.

Truck vs Train

40 Tons of Steel, Plastic, Rubber & Glass

6,000 Tons of Solid Built American Steel

It’s No Contest. Every day, people are injured or killed trying to beat a train.

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Look, Listen & Live

Look both ways!

Listen for the sound of a train!

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