

Tips for Emergency Responders

Emergency responders must make safe decisions around tracks and trains. Operation Lifesaver reminds emergency responders to be pro-active for the safety of you and your partners.

- **Preplan routes.** When possible, select a route that avoids railroad crossings or use only crossings equipped with flashing lights and gates.
- **Assure clear sight** – in BOTH directions before crossing tracks, especially at crossings without active warning devices.
- **Remember trains cannot stop quickly** – even when full emergency stop is deployed.
- **Maintain emergency railroad phone numbers** – at dispatch and in vehicle. Contact the railroad that controls the tracks if you need to stop a train. Provide U.S. DOT number, railroad milepost (if found) and location references.
- **Avoid laying hose lines across tracks.** Contact the railroad for clearance and assistance to move ballast before feeding hose under tracks, if needed.

REPORT EMERGENCY
TO 1-800-555-5555
CROSSING #221-620D
ON WENDOVER ROAD

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Why can't trains yield to emergency vehicles? An average freight train weighing 12 million pounds traveling at 55 mph takes a mile or more to stop. Emergency vehicles MUST yield to trains.

What action should an emergency vehicle operator take when approaching a railroad crossing? Momentarily deactivate sirens and horns, remove headsets and hearing protection, turn down radios, open windows, slow down. LISTEN for the train horn and LOOK up the tracks in both directions.

If visibility is obstructed, it may be necessary to send a crewmember to determine that it is safe to cross.

How can the emergency response crew assist the driver? All crew members should assist the driver in looking and listening for approaching trains at crossings.

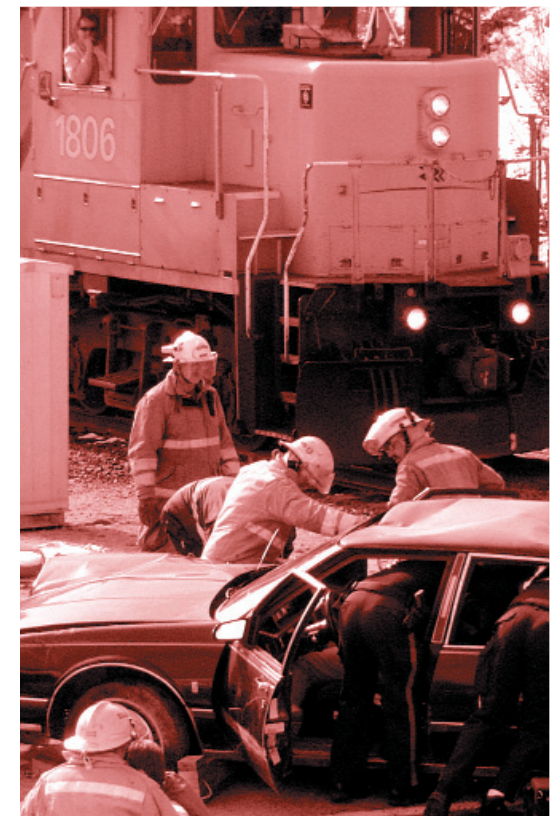
Do your emergency plans include a comprehensive response to a railroad related incident?

Have emergency personnel in your department received crucial instruction to more effectively and safely handle incidents involving railroad equipment or property? If not:

Contact Operation Lifesaver at www.oli.org or call 1-800-537-6224 to schedule a four-hour Rail Safety for Emergency Responders (RSER) course.

Key Safety Tips at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings

PROVIDED IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY



FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Warning Signs & Devices



ADVANCE WARNING SIGN

This is usually the first sign you see when approaching a highway-rail grade crossing. Slow down, look and listen! Be prepared to stop if a train is approaching.



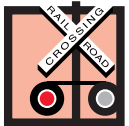
PAVEMENT MARKINGS

An RXR and a Stop Line may be painted on a paved road approaching a crossing. Stay behind the Stop Line while waiting for a train to pass. No Stop Line? Wait at least 15 feet from the nearest rail.



CROSSBUCK SIGN

This sign tells drivers to YIELD if a train is approaching. At multiple tracks, the number will be shown. Watch for another train coming from either direction on any track.



FLASHING RED LIGHT SIGNALS

You must STOP when these signals begin to flash. Do not proceed until the lights stop flashing.



GATES AND FLASHING RED LIGHTS

If you see flashing lights or a lowering gate, it means a train is approaching. Do not proceed until the gates go completely up and the lights go off. It is illegal to go around lowered gates.

Tips for Staying Safe Around Tracks & Trains

LOOK BOTH WAYS!

Always expect a train. Trains can run on any track, at any time, in either direction. After a train passes, look both ways before proceeding.

DON'T GET STUCK ON THE TRACK!

Before you cross, be sure there is room on the other side to completely clear the tracks. Trains overhang the tracks by at least 3 feet on each side. For safety, leave at least 15 feet between the rear of your vehicle and the nearest rail. Do not shift gears while crossing.

GET OUT! GET AWAY!

If your vehicle stalls at a crossing, get everyone out and far away immediately, even if you do not see a train. Call the emergency notification number posted on or near the crossing or notify local law enforcement.

IF YOU SEE A TRAIN COMING, WAIT!

Don't be tempted to try to beat a train. An approaching train may be closer and traveling faster than it appears.

TRAINS CANNOT STOP QUICKLY.

The average freight train traveling 55 miles per hour takes a mile or more to stop. That's 18 football fields. If the locomotive engineer can see you, it's too late to stop the train.

WATCH FOR VEHICLES THAT MUST STOP AT RAILROAD CROSSINGS.

Most states require school buses, commercial buses and trucks carrying hazardous materials to stop at every highway-rail grade crossing. (State laws vary.)

IF YOU SEE A PROBLEM AT A CROSSING.

Report any problem - stalled vehicle on the tracks, damaged sign, obstructed view, signal malfunction - to the railroad immediately. Call the emergency notification number posted on or near the crossing, or notify local law enforcement.

You Can Help Operation Lifesaver Save Lives

Please help your family members and friends make safe decisions around tracks and trains.

SCHEDULE A PRESENTATION.

It's FREE! Across the nation certified Operation Lifesaver Presenters are available to speak to student drivers, professional truck and bus drivers, school bus operators, general motorists, law enforcement, emergency responders and community groups.

VOLUNTEER!

Would you like to help deliver Operation Lifesaver's safety message in your community? Find out about becoming trained as an Operation Lifesaver Presenter or Associate.

VISIT

Visit www.oli.org or call Operation Lifesaver, Inc., at 1-800-537-6224 to contact your State Coordinator.



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