

Warning Signs and 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.

Safety Tips for Friends and Family

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!

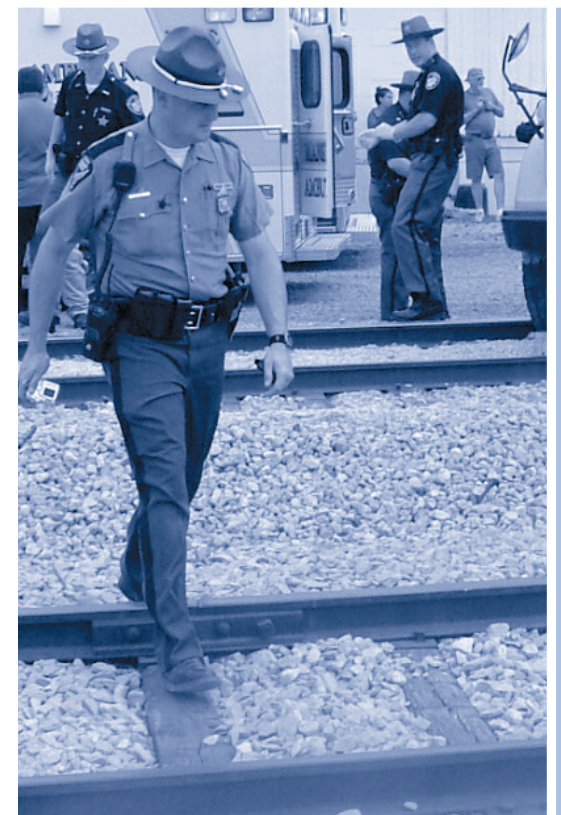
Would you like to help deliver Operation Lifesaver's safety message in your community? Find out about becoming trained as an Operation Lifesaver Presenter or Associate.

VISIT

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

Key Safety Tips at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings

PROVIDED IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY



FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT



Tips for Law Enforcement Officers

Officer safety while responding to and investigating train-related incidents depends on a basic familiarity with railroad equipment and operations.

STOPPING A TRAIN

The following actions should be taken in the event of an incident involving potential fatalities, injuries or property losses:

- 1. Call the emergency notification number located at the crossing** or the emergency railroad number maintained at the police dispatch. Identify the location using the U.S.DOT number, railroad milepost (if available), and other reference points. Remember train crews and motor vehicle drivers do not use the same geographical references.
- 2. Place lighted red fuseses between the rails at least a mile and one half from the incident.** Trains can't stop quickly. The average freight train traveling at 55 mph will require a mile or more to stop.
- 3. Position yourself well away from the rails.** Swing a fusee or white light back and forth (left to right) at knee to hip height. This universal "STOP" signal is understood by all train crewmembers. The engineer will acknowledge the signal and bring the train to a stop.

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

Your Safety First

- **Keep patrol cars off the tracks!** Remember trains and railcars overhang tracks by at least three feet on each side!
- **Multiple tracks?** Train traffic may continue to move. To stop all trains, contact the railroads that control the tracks.
- **Check for hazardous materials.** Locate conductor, train documents, placarded cars.
- **Be alert to unforeseen train movements!** Avoid moving over, under, or between railcars or locomotives without the knowledge or assistance of the train crew.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- **On approach, trains trigger active warning devices (flashing red lights, gates, bells)** at least 20 seconds before their arrival.
- **Active warning devices are designed to function** with battery back-up power.
- **False or malfunctioning signal activations should be reported immediately** to the appropriate railroad company that owns the tracks.
- **Enforcement of trespassing laws is important.** Vandals may cause signal malfunctions and damage to rails and rail equipment, jeopardizing life and property.
- **For specific information about engineering, operating or regulatory issues** - contact the appropriate railroad, highway authority, state department of transportation, Federal Railroad Administration, or Federal Highway Administration.

Quick Investigation Checklist

- Record lead locomotive's engine number, total rail cars and engines.
- Identification numbers of railcars on the crossing.
- Operating condition of locomotive headlight, ditch (alerting) lights, horn and bell.
- If so equipped, onboard video and/or event recorder. (Contact railroad police)
- Operating condition of active warning devices (lights, gates and bells).
- Condition of passive warning devices (crossbucks), advance warning signs and pavement markings.
- Motor vehicle's gear selector position. Are keys in ignition?
- U.S. DOT crossing identification number (located on signal mast, sign post, or signal cabinet), railroad milepost, other reference points.
- Engineer's certification and conductor's identity. Note: a state motor vehicle operator's license is not required to operate a train.



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Grade Crossing Collision Investigation

If railroad tracks run through your jurisdiction or a mutual aid jurisdiction, potential exists for law enforcement officers to become involved in a specialized highway-rail collision investigation.

Grade Crossing Collision Investigation (GCCI) courses developed in cooperation with the International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Sheriff's Association and Operation Lifesaver help responders more effectively and safely investigate such incidents.

GCCI Courses are available free of charge or at nominal fee as follows:

- **BASIC** (4-Hours Classroom or On-line)
- **INTERMEDIATE** (8-Hours - Classroom and Field Training)
- **ADVANCED** (16-Hours - Extensive Classroom and Field Training)

For more information or to register for a GCCI Course, visit www.oli.org. To learn about or take the on-line Basic GCCI course, visit www.gccicourse.com.