

## Tips for School Bus Drivers

Decisions you make in the driver's seat affect the safety of your passengers.

### SCHOOL BUS DRIVER "FIVE ALIVE" SAFETY DRILL

- 1. Slow down** as you approach a railroad crossing. Obey all warning signs and signals.
- 2. Alert the students** for silence as you cross the tracks. Turn off the AM-FM radio and fan.
- 3. Stop** no closer than 15 feet from the crossing. Open driver window and right-hand door. **Look and listen for a train.** Rock back and forth in your seat to see around obstructions.
- 4. Do a double take** (look both ways again) before crossing.
- 5. GO.** Once you start across, do not hesitate.

### Special Procedures

#### PLANNING SCHOOL BUS ROUTES

Work with your transportation department to reduce the number of times your bus crosses the tracks. Plan ahead to avoid tracks or use only crossings equipped with flashing red lights and gates.

#### SIGNAL MALFUNCTION

If a police officer or properly-identified railroad flagman is at the crossing, obey directions. If there is no flagman, and you believe the signals are malfunctioning, call your dispatcher and find out how to proceed. Call the railroad's emergency notification number posted on or near the crossing to report the problem. Find another route.

### 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.

REPORT EMERGENCY  
TO 1-800-555-5555  
CROSSING #221-6200  
ON WENDOVER ROAD

### OBSTRUCTED VIEW OF TRACKS

If you encounter a crossing without gates or flashing lights that has an obstructed view down the tracks, do not attempt to cross. Find another route! Report the problem to your supervisor.

### CONTAINMENT OR STORAGE AREAS

If it won't fit, don't commit! Know the length of your bus. Be certain there is enough space for your bus to clear the crossing without stopping, leaving at least 15 extra feet between the end of your bus and the nearest rail. Don't forget trains overhang at least 3 feet beyond the tracks on each side.

### EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY

If your bus stalls, or is trapped on the tracks, get everyone off the bus. Move far away from the tracks at a 45 degree angle in the direction of the train to avoid being struck by flying debris.

## Key Safety Tips at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings

PROVIDED IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY



FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS



## Warning Signs & Devices

Do you know the signs? Warning signs and devices tell drivers and pedestrians that the road crosses train tracks ahead. Watch for a train!



### 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.)

## 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](http://www.oli.org) or call Operation Lifesaver, Inc., at 1-800-537-6224 to contact your State Coordinator.



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