



Rail Safety Tips

Whether you are on foot, in a car, or riding a bike or recreational vehicle, staying safe around railway tracks or property is all about knowing the rules. Be sure to follow these tips—they could save your life.



STAY OFF THE TRACKS

Never walk, cycle or drive along railway tracks. It's hard to judge how far away a train is or what speed it's travelling at. Trains can go as fast as 160 km/h and can take up to 2 kilometres to come to a complete stop. That's the length of 18 football fields.



KEEP OFF RAILWAY PROPERTY

Railway yards, tunnels and bridges are all private property. If you are caught trespassing on them, you could be fined up to \$50,000. But it isn't just illegal to trespass on railway property—it's extremely dangerous. Railway tunnels and bridges are often only slightly wider than the rails, leaving little or no room for you if a train does come along.



USE DESIGNATED RAILWAY CROSSINGS

Always cross railway tracks at designated crossings. Trying to cross tracks anywhere else could be deadly. Remember, trains can come at any time, from either direction, and on any track. They also don't always run on a set schedule.



OBEY ALL RAILWAY SIGNS AND SIGNALS

Obey all railway signs and warning devices, such as lights, bells and gates. Before proceeding through a crossing, look both ways and listen for approaching trains. If a train is coming, or railway warning signals are activated, stop behind any gates or stop lines—or no closer than 5 metres away from the nearest rail—and wait for the train to pass. Cross only after the warning signals have ceased and you are certain no other trains are approaching, from either direction, and on any track.



STAY ALERT

You can't avoid getting struck by a train if you can't hear it or see it coming. Today's trains are extremely quiet, so don't be distracted by cell phones or other devices when in the vicinity of a railway crossing. Although trains sound their whistles at most crossings, or in the case of an emergency, you won't hear the warning if you are wearing headphones.



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Trains can overhang the tracks by as much as 1 metre on each side. They can also carry loads that are wider than the railway cars themselves. So, stay clear. You could also get hit by chains, straps or other equipment swinging loose from the train if you are too close.

REMEMBER:

- An optical illusion makes it hard to determine a train's distance from you, or its speed. Trains are usually a lot closer than they seem—and travel a lot faster.
- A train hitting a car is like a car running over a pop can. The average freight train weighs more than 5.5 million kg. In comparison, a car weighs around 1,375 kg.

Know the Signs and Signals

FLASHING RED LIGHTS

STOP when flashing. DO NOT proceed until the lights stop flashing. If the lights begin flashing after you start crossing the tracks, keep going.

CROSSBUCK

YIELD if a train is approaching. Trains always have the right-of-way.

LOWERING GATES AND FLASHING RED LIGHTS

A train is approaching (even if you don't see it yet). DO NOT proceed until the lights turn off and the gates go up. It's illegal and dangerous to go around lowered gates.

MULTIPLE TRACKS

Multiple tracks are present. Multiple tracks may mean multiple trains. Wait until you can see clearly down the tracks in both directions before proceeding.



PAVEMENT MARKINGS

A large "X" and a wide white line on the road mean you're approaching a railway crossing. Stay behind the white stop line while waiting for a train to pass. No stop line? Stop at least 5 metres from the nearest rail.

LOW GROUND CLEARANCE CROSSING

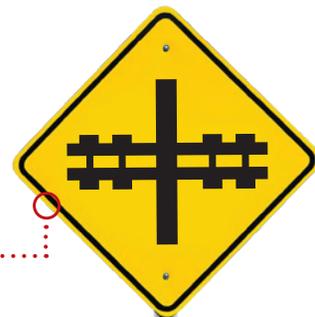
Raised crossing ahead. If you drive anything low to the ground — like a bus, truck, sports car or trailer — you're at risk of getting hung up on the tracks. DO NOT proceed until you know your vehicle will clear the tracks.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SIGN (ENS)

This is the first phone number to call if a vehicle is stuck or stalls on the tracks (this number may also be found on the signal house). You can also dial it to report people, vehicles or debris on the tracks, as well as damaged signs or signals, or obstructed views. The mile post and subdivision listed on the sign will help the railway to identify your location.

ADVANCE WARNING

Slow down, look, listen, and BE PREPARED TO STOP. Typically, this is the first sign you see when approaching a railway crossing.



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