Key Safety Tips at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings

Provided in the interest of safety

FOR ALL DRIVERS

What is Operation Lifesaver?

Operation Lifesaver is a non-profit, international public education program first established in 1972 to end collisions, deaths and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and on railroad rights-of-way.

The program is supported by a wide variety of partners, including federal, state and local government agencies, highway safety organizations, law enforcement, the nation’s railroads and their suppliers.

How does Operation Lifesaver work?

Operation Lifesaver’s certified volunteer speakers give free rail safety presentations to people of all professions and age groups. Learn about Operation Lifesaver’s educational brochures and videos, materials for children and training information at www.oli.org.

Is there an Operation Lifesaver office in my state?

Operation Lifesaver state coordinators are located in 49 states and the District of Columbia.

How can I get more information about Operation Lifesaver and rail safety?

Find your State Coordinator at www.oli.org or call 1-800-537-6224 for more information.

How can I schedule a presentation?

Free rail safety presentations are available for groups of all ages and professions. Visit www.oli.org or call 1-800-537-6224 for more information.

How can I become a safety volunteer?

Find out more about becoming a trained and certified Operation Lifesaver Presenter or Associate at www.oli.org or by calling 1-800-537-6224 to contact your State Coordinator.
**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.)

**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.