RAILROAD GRADE CROSSING SAFETY

EXPECT A TRAIN ON ANY TRACK AT ANY TIME
Most trains do not run on a fixed schedule. Be cautious at a grade crossing any time of the day or night.

DON’T GET TRAPPED ON A GRADE CROSSING
Don’t drive onto a grade crossing until you are sure you can clear the tracks. Once you have started across the tracks, keep going, even if you see a train coming.

GET OUT OF YOUR VEHICLE IF IT STALLS
If your vehicle stalls on a crossing, get everyone out of the vehicle and off the tracks immediately. If a train is coming, stay clear of the tracks and run toward the approaching train. By moving in this direction, no one will be hit by flying debris. If no train is in sight, post look-outs and try to start or move the vehicle.

WATCH OUT FOR THE SECOND TRAIN
When the last car of a train passes the crossing, do not start up until you are sure no train is coming on another train track, especially from the other direction.

NEVER DRIVE AROUND GATES
If the gates are down, stay in place and do not cross the tracks until the gates are raised and the lights stop flashing.

NEVER RACE WITH A TRAIN
Racing with a train to the crossing is foolish. You will never have another chance if you lose.

WATCH FOR VEHICLES THAT MUST STOP AT RAILROAD GRADE CROSSINGS
Be prepared to stop when you are following buses or trucks that are required to stop at grade crossings.

BE ESPECIALLY ALERT AT NIGHT FOR RAILROAD CROSSING WARNING SIGNS
You should be able to stop within the distance illuminated by your headlights. If you are traveling faster, you are “over-driving your headlights.”

REDUCE SPEED AND BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL OF OBSTRUCTIONS
Slow down more than you normally would if your view of the tracks is blocked.

TRACK FACTS & TIPS
• Railroad tracks, trestles, yards, and equipment are private property. Walking or playing on them is illegal – trespassers are subject to arrest and fines. Too often the penalty is death.

• Since 1990, almost 6,000 people have been killed while trespassing on railroad rights-of-way and property.

• Trains cannot stop quickly. A freight train moving at 55 miles per hour or an 8-car passenger train moving at 79 miles per hour can take a mile or more to stop.

• DO NOT walk, run, cycle, or operate all terrain vehicles (ATVs) on railroad tracks, or rights-of-way, or through tunnels.

• DO NOT hunt, fish, or bungee jump from railroad trestles. There is only enough clearance on the tracks for a train to pass.

• DO NOT attempt to hop aboard railroad equipment at any time. A slip of the foot can cost you a limb or your life.

• REMEMBER: Rails and recreation DO NOT mix! Operation Lifesaver is a national, non-profit public education program dedicated to ending collision deaths and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and along railroad rights-of-way. For more information contact:
  Betsey Williams Tramonte 225-334-0950 office
  Executive Director 225-922-0083 fax
  LA Operation Lifesaver 225-921-8381 cell
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