

OPERATION LIFESAVER



General Rail Safety Presentation

What is Operation Lifesaver?



We are dedicated railroaders and citizens, aiming to save lives by educating Canadians about the hazards associated with railway tracks and trains.

We believe that all rail incidents are preventable.

- Operation Lifesaver (OL) is a not-for-profit funded by Transport Canada and the Railway Association of Canada.
- OL works in cooperation with the rail industry, governments, law enforcement, labour groups and many other safety-focused organizations and community groups.

Our Goal



- Our ultimate goal is to prevent collisions at railway crossings and railway trespassing incidents in Canada.
- OL strives to achieve this by educating Canadians of the dangers associated with railway tracks and trains.
- We believe that virtually all of these incidents are preventable.

It's a Fact



- There are approx. 50,000 railway crossings and close to 45,000 km of railway tracks in Canada.
- Every year **more than 100 Canadians** are seriously injured or killed as a result of railway crossing or trespassing incidents.
- Current statistics can be found [here](#).

Train Collides with
Truck at Crossing with
Multiple Tracks

Person Struck
and Killed While
Walking On Tracks.

Warning Signs and Devices



Do you know what to do if you see the following railway warning signs, devices and signals? It could save your life!



Crossbuck/Railway Crossings



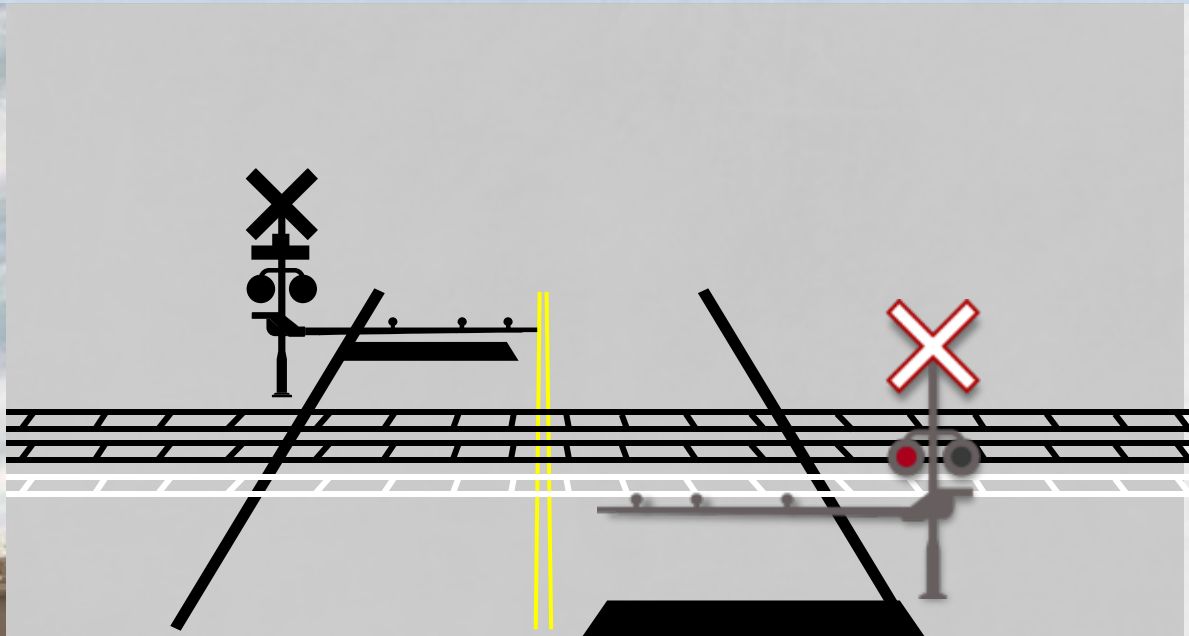
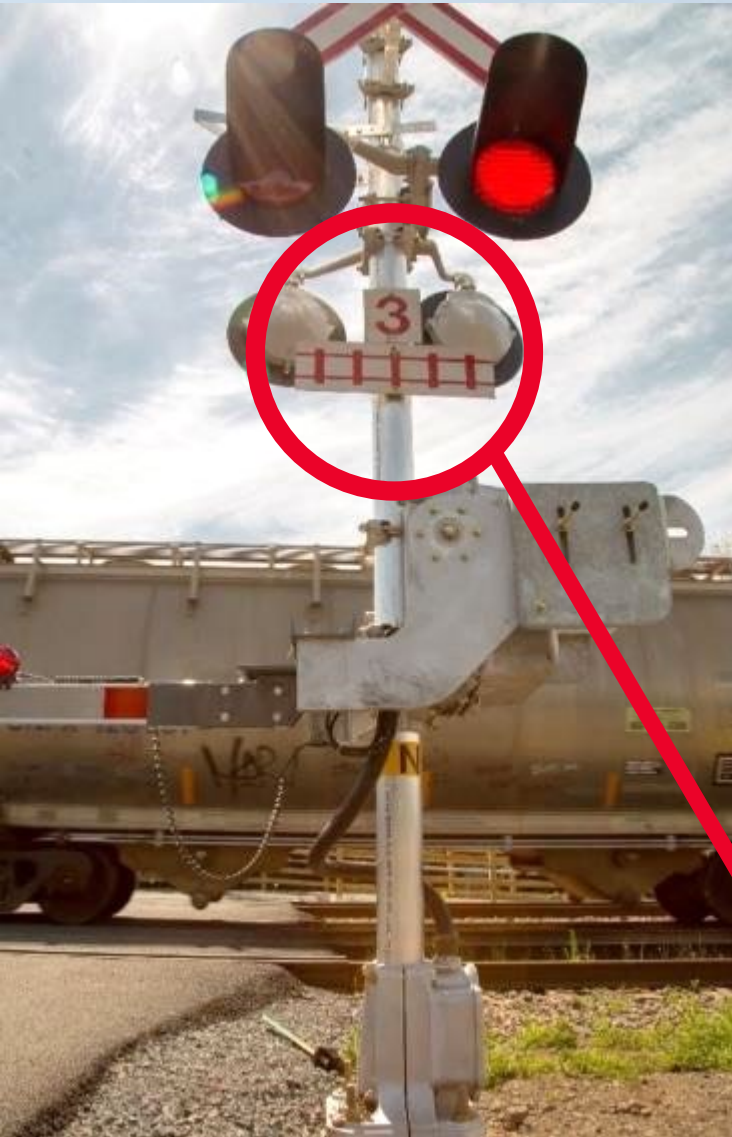
Advanced Warning



What should you do when you see this sign?



Multiple Tracks



MULTIPLE TRACKS MEAN MULTIPLE TRAINS

This sign lets you know how many tracks are at a particular crossing.

Make sure that ALL tracks are clear before you cross. If there is a train in the crossing, once it clears, **look both ways**. You need to make sure **no other trains** are approaching on the other tracks from either direction.

Active Crossings



- Crossings with flashing lights, bells and lowering/lowered gates mean a train is coming – you must **STOP**.
- **REMAIN STOPPED** until the the lights stop flashing, bell stops ringing and, if applicable, gates are fully raised. Never go around or under the gate.
- Trains always have the right-of-way.



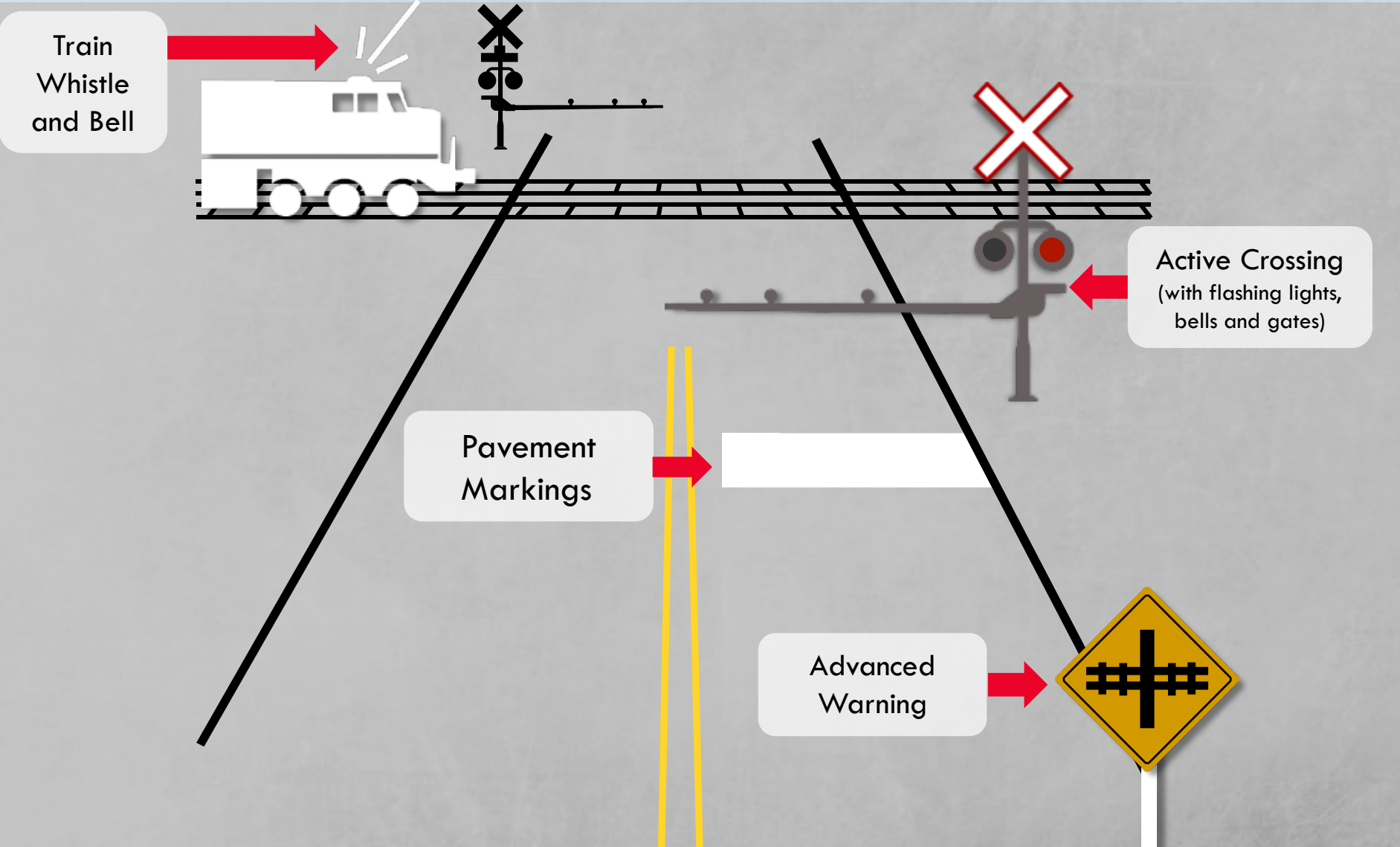
Anytime is Train Time



**As you approach a railway crossing,
always expect a train.**

Trains do not always run on a schedule. Trains can run on any track, at any time, from either direction.

Approaching a Crossing



Three Don'ts



1 DON'T PASS

while crossing the tracks.



2 DON'T SHIFT GEARS

while crossing the tracks.



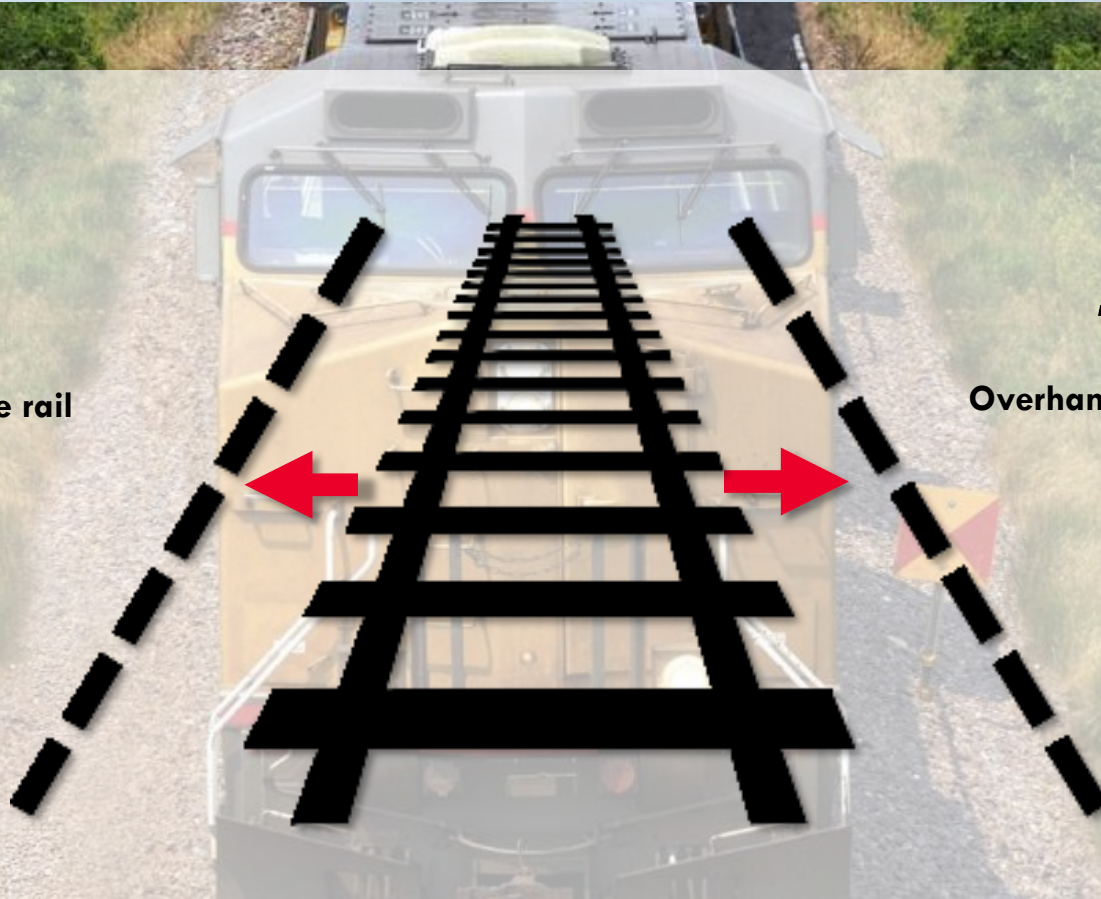
3 DON'T STOP

on the tracks.

Overhang



1 m
Overhang from the rail



1 m
Overhang from the rail

Trains can carry loads that are wider than the railway cars themselves.
If you are too close, you could get hit.

Stopping and Crossing



When you stop at a railway crossing, make sure the front of your vehicle is at least **5 metres** from the nearest rail.

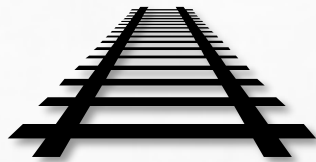


Proceeding



When proceeding over a railway crossing, make sure the back of your vehicle is at least **5 metres** from the nearest rail.

Watch for backed up traffic, traffic lights and stop signs.



5 m.



Collisions



NEVER DRIVE AROUND LOWERED GATES AT A CROSSING!

Speed Misperception



Airplanes in flight look like they are almost hanging in mid-air but their landing speed is more than 250 km/h. The same **optical illusion** applies to trains.

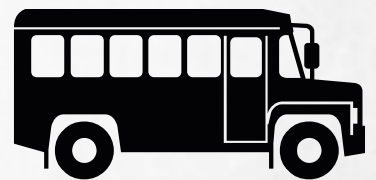
Because of their size, trains **appear** to be much further away and travelling much more slowly than they actually are.



Stopping Distance



60 m.



70 m.



100 m.



190 m.



> 2 km



When traveling
at
90 km/h

The stopping distance of the average freight train is 2 km or more. That's 18 football fields.

Trains can stop, but they can't stop quickly.

Weight Ratio



1,375 kg



5.5 Million kg



340 g

**4,000 to 1
weight ratio**



1,375 kg

Just like a car can crush a can, a train can crush a vehicle.



Overdriving Your Headlights



Always expect a train!

Overdriving your headlights means driving too fast to stop in the distance illuminated by them.

This can cause collisions where motorists to drive into the side of trains at railway crossings.

Watch for Advanced Warning Signs before crossings, then slow down and be prepared to stop if a train is approaching.



Distractions



Don't text while driving!



Distracted driving can be dangerous and even deadly. This is especially true around train tracks.

Never drive when you're tired or after drinking alcohol or taking medications that can blur your vision, cause drowsiness, or **impair your reaction time.**

When approaching railway tracks, keep your **full attention** on the road and your surroundings.

Trains Can't Swerve



Trains don't have a steering wheel, so they can't swerve right or left.

Stay Away! Stay Alive!



Taking a shortcut across the tracks can get you seriously injured or killed.

Being on or near railway tracks without permission is also illegal – even if no sign is posted.

It's considered a crime and can result in a fine/ticket.



Stay Off the Tracks



Recreational activities and railway tracks don't mix.

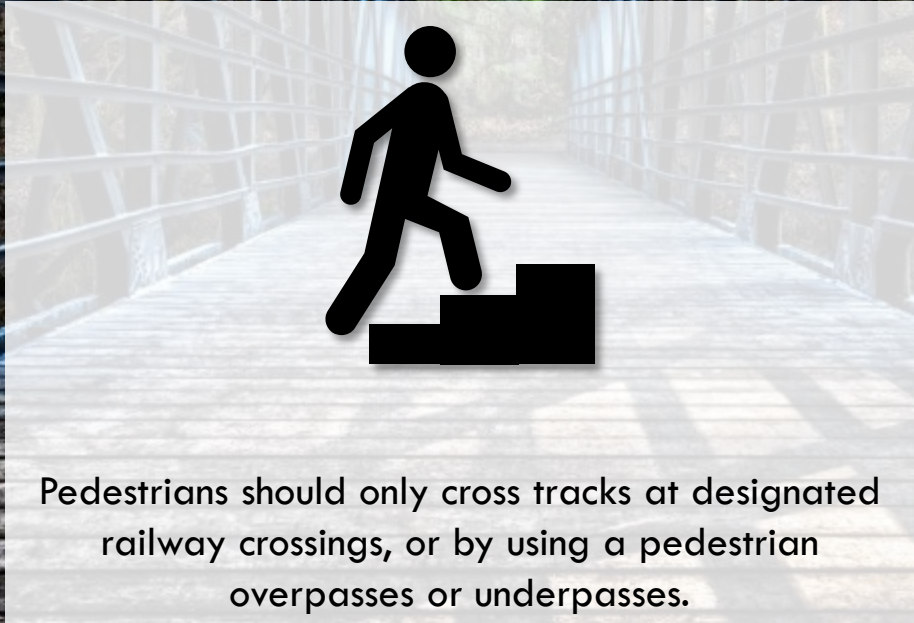
Listening to music near railway tracks can prevent you from hearing trains.

Train crews are not expecting people on or near the tracks. You may not hear a warning in time.

Railway employees will notify authorities if they spot someone on or around the tracks.



Where Can I Cross Safely?



Pedestrians should only cross tracks at designated railway crossings, or by using a pedestrian overpasses or underpasses.



Use designated sidewalks when available.

Objects and Trains



Placing objects on the rails is **dangerous** and **against the law**.



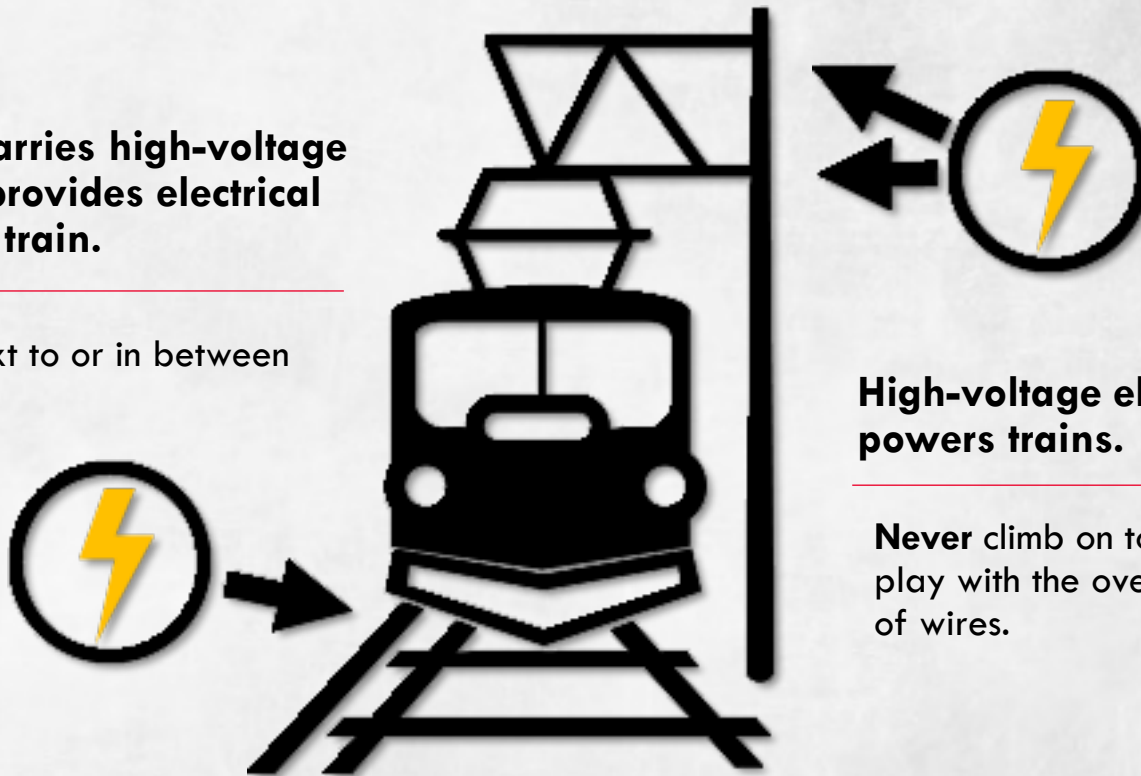
Throwing objects at trains is also illegal. Any object thrown at a moving train can **bounce back with potentially deadly force**.



Electrified Railways

A third rail carries high-voltage current that provides electrical power to the train.

Never walk next to or in between rails.



High-voltage electricity powers trains.

Never climb on top of trains or play with the overhead network of wires.

Tunnels and Bridges



Railway bridges and tunnels aren't open to the public — **it's illegal to be in these places, and you will be fined** if you're found here.

If you are on a bridge or in a tunnel and a train approaches, **you will likely be hit**. Tunnels and bridges only have enough room for trains.



Trains Can Move Without Warning



Don't Climb on Trains

Don't Get Too Close

Don't Crawl Under Trains

Don't climb on rail cars. When a parked train starts to move, the rail cars can often jerk with enough force to knock you off.

Don't stand too close to the tracks. Overhanging rail equipment can hit you, causing serious injuries or death.

Don't crawl under rail cars. Trains can move without warning. You could lose a limb or even your life.



Don't Walk on Tracks



Walking on railway tracks is dangerous and illegal.

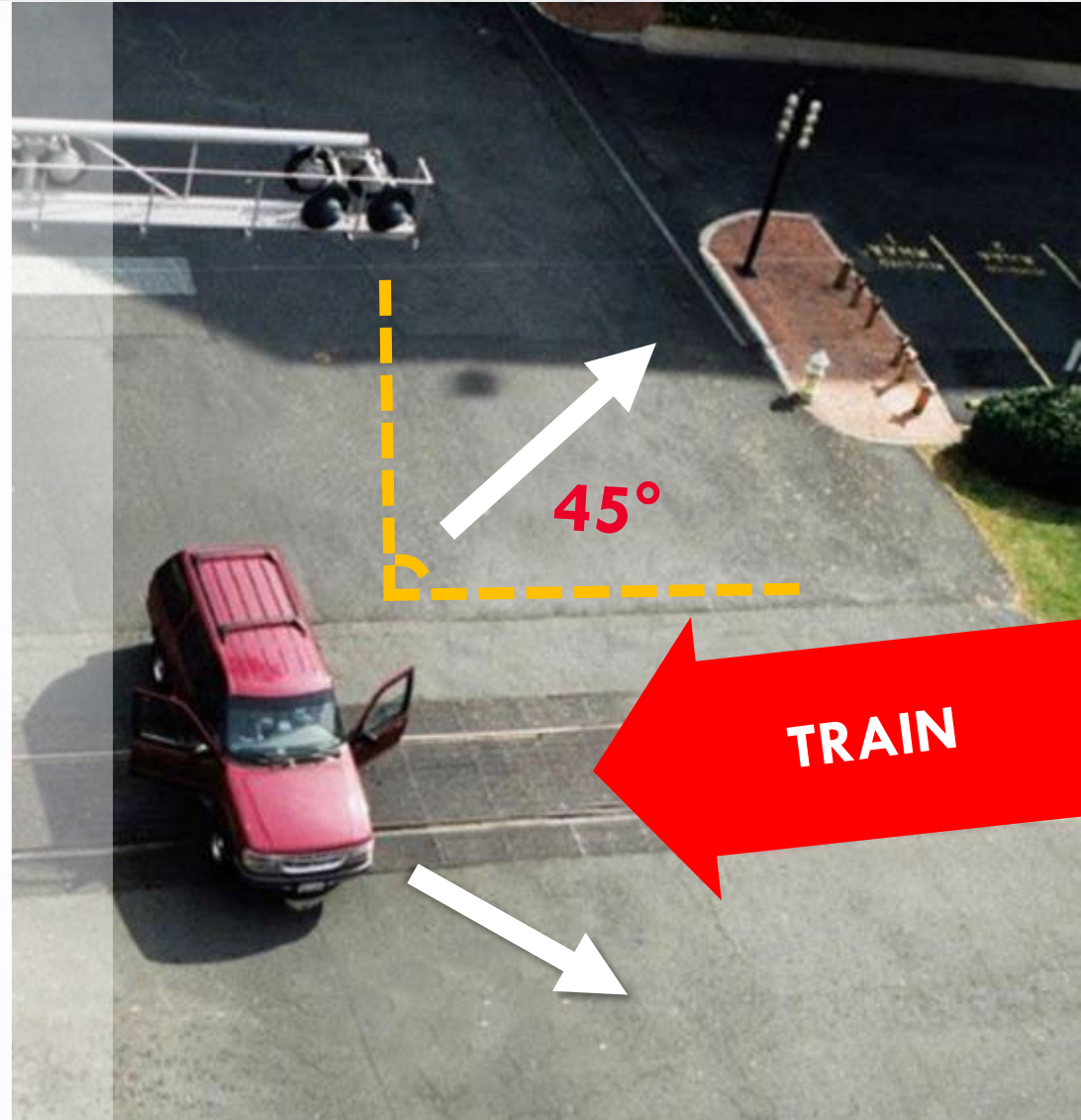
- You won't necessarily hear a train coming – some trains are silent and hard to hear.
- Talking on cell phones or listening to music near railway tracks are potentially deadly distractions.
- Trains can run on any track, from either direction, at any time.
- Walking, lying, or sitting on the tracks can lead to serious injuries or even death.





Stalled or Stuck?

1. Get out of your vehicle immediately.
2. Get away from the tracks.
3. Call the railway emergency number posted nearby and tell them about the stalled vehicle.
4. If a train is coming: run toward the train but away from the tracks at a 45-degree angle. If you run in the same direction that the train is travelling, you could be injured by flying debris when the train hits your vehicle.





Emergency Number

In case of emergency, look for the 1-800 number and mileage point posted on or near the crossing signal.



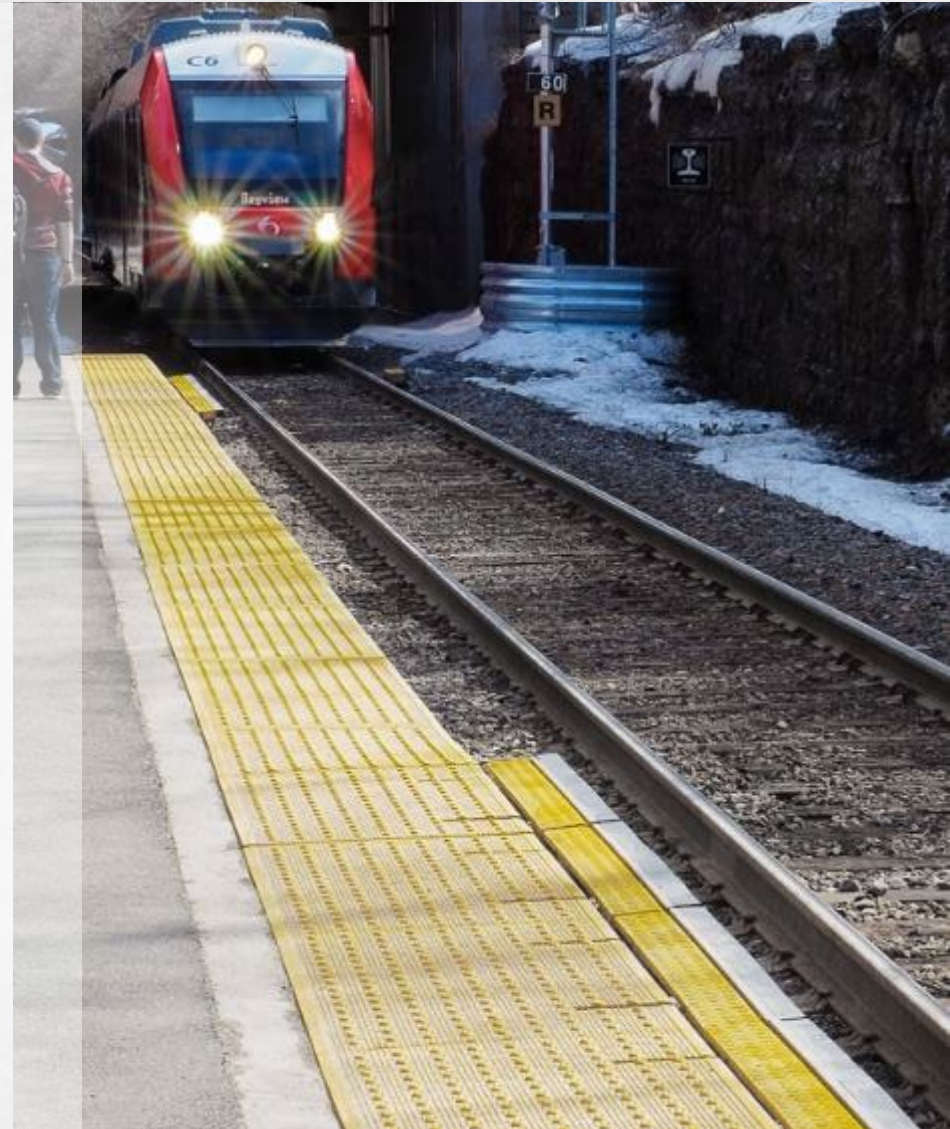
- Call the number and give the mileage point found on the sign so they can find you.
- This information may be located on the **back of the crossbuck, signal post, silver signal control building or “No Trespassing” sign.**
- If you cannot locate the sign, call 911 or the local police.



Passenger Trains – The Platform

Trains can run on any track, from either direction, at any time, and can be very quiet.

- Follow all signs, announcements and signals.
- Always enter and exit station platforms at designated areas.
- Stand well behind the painted or raised platform edge markings – not all trains stop at all stations.
- Never go down onto tracks – they may be electrified. If you drop something, alert a station agent, police officer, or other company personnel.





Boarding, Riding and Getting off Trains

Be careful getting on and off trains — there may be a gap or steps down to the ground.

- Hold on tight to poles or seats.
- Listen carefully to directions from the train operator or conductor.
- Hold children by the hand as the train moves into or out of stations.
- Follow the signs to know where it is safe to cross the tracks — anywhere else is dangerous and illegal.



Light Rail and Streetcars



- Cross light rail and streetcar tracks only at designated crossings, and obey all warning signs, signals and lights.
- Do not walk or ride your bike along the tracks.
- When you cross the tracks on your bike, dismount and walk across at a 90-degree angle.
- Never run to catch the train or streetcar, or try to board when it's moving.
- Watch your step getting on and off the train or streetcar.

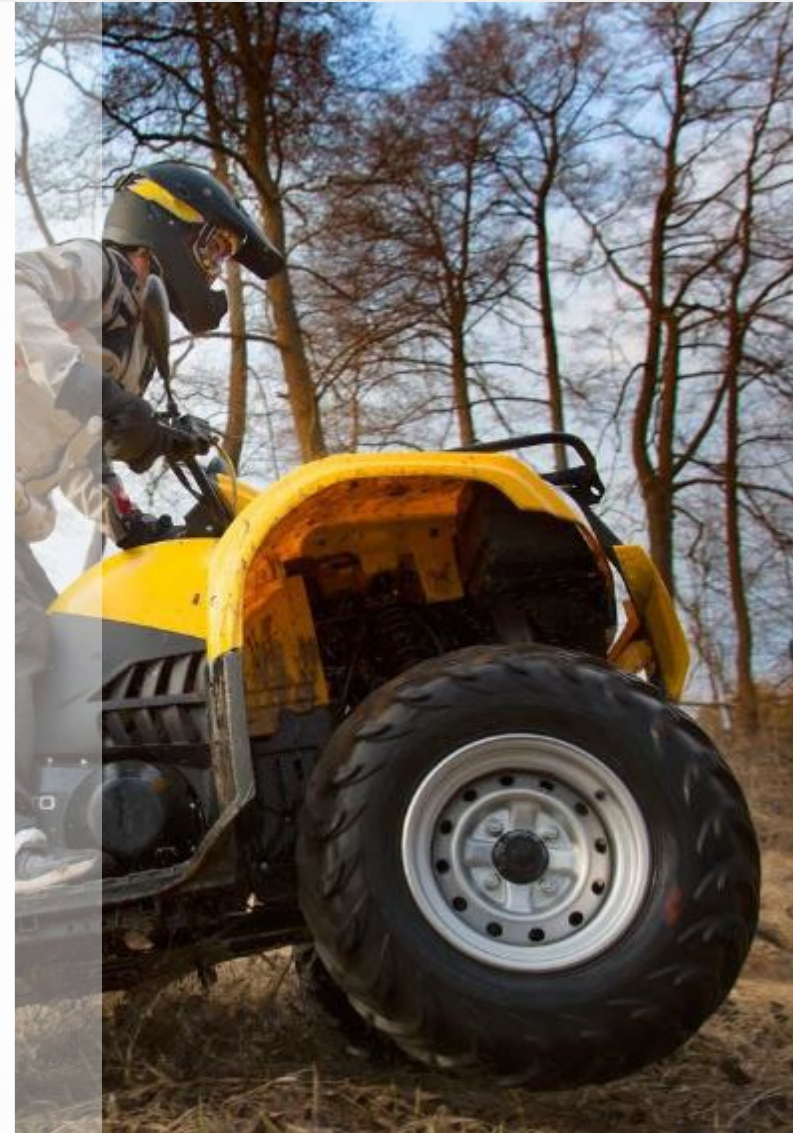




Off-Road Vehicles

Driving an ATV, snowmobile, or other off-road vehicle is a great way to enjoy the outdoors — if you do it safely. Follow these tips:

- Only use approved trails. Even riding next to train tracks poses a danger — trains can overhang the tracks by as much as 1 metre on each side.
- Be extra cautious: your helmet and the noise from your engine can make it hard to hear approaching trains.
- Only cross railway tracks at designated crossings.
- When using a rail crossing, cross at a 90-degree angle or as close to it as possible.



Quiz Time



An advanced warning sign lets you know that a railway crossing is up ahead. Slow down and stay alert as you're approaching the crossing.

Quiz Time



When you see a crossbuck sign, you know that you're at a railway crossing. It's your responsibility to slow down, look, listen and yield to oncoming trains.

Quiz Time



If you hear a train whistle, be prepared to stop. If a train is approaching, stop at least 5 metres from the nearest rail and ensure all tracks are clear and no other trains are approaching before crossing the tracks.

Quiz Time



If you're obeying traffic signs and signals, you should never find yourself on the tracks while the crossing gates are lowering. Crossing lights start flashing approximately 7 seconds before gates start to lower.

In this situation, the best option is to keep going so that your vehicle clears the tracks as soon as possible.

Quiz Time



Most collisions occur close to a driver's home. People tend to pay less attention to potential hazards around them when they're taking a familiar route.

Quiz Time



Even when applying the emergency brakes, a train can take more than 2 kilometres to come to a complete stop – that's the equivalent of 18 football fields!

Always yield the right of way to oncoming trains – you can stop much more quickly than they can.



Any questions?

Visit us online at:



OperationLifesaver.ca



LookListenLive.ca



STOPTrackTragedies.ca