

Tips for Professional Truck Drivers

Operation Lifesaver reminds professional drivers to stay alert at places where the roadway crosses train tracks.

STOPPING AT HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSINGS

- Turn off noisy fans and radios. Look and listen for a train.
- Stop no closer than 15 feet from the nearest rail.
- While stopped, look carefully in each direction for approaching trains. Rock back and forth in your seat to see around obstructions such as mirrors and windshield pillars.
- Certain trucks carrying hazardous materials are required by law to STOP at all crossings. The requirements are explained in 49 CFR 392.

NOTE: Local and state laws may be more restrictive than the reminders contained within this document.

BEFORE CROSSING TRACKS

- If it won't fit, don't commit! Be sure there is enough space to clear the crossing without stopping. For safety, leave at least 15 feet between the rear of your trailer or extending load and the tracks.
- Remember trains overhang at least 3 feet beyond the rail on each side.
- Use the highest gear which will let you cross the tracks without shifting.

AS YOU CROSS

- If the red lights begin to flash after you start across, keep going.

PLAN AHEAD

- When possible, select a route that avoids railroad crossings or use only crossings equipped with flashing lights and gates.
- Trucks with low clearance trailers should plan their route to avoid getting stuck on high profile tracks.

IF YOU GET STUCK ON THE TRACKS

- If your truck stalls, or is trapped on the tracks, get everyone out immediately. Move far away from the tracks at a 45 degree angle in the direction of the train to avoid being struck by flying debris.
- Call your dispatch. Call the railroad's emergency notification number posted on or near the crossing to report the problem.
- Contact local law enforcement to call the railroad for assistance.
- Give the location of the crossing, especially the DOT number (6 digits followed by a letter) posted on or near the crossing sign or signal equipment.

REPORT EMERGENCY
TO 1-800-555-5555
CROSSING #221-620D
ON WENDOVER ROAD

Key Safety Tips at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings

PROVIDED IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY



FOR PROFESSIONAL TRUCK DRIVERS



Warning Signs & Devices



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.



HUMP CROSSING SIGN

If you drive a lowboy, car carrier, or anything else low to the ground, this sign means you are at risk of getting hung up on the tracks. **Do not proceed.**

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.



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