



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Railroad
Administration**
www.fra.dot.gov



Truck Driver Safety Alert!

Recent News:

“Truck Drivers at Risk on Railroad Crossings”



How to Cross Railroad Tracks Safely



As you approach the crossing:

- < Never ignore flashing lights, whistles, closing gates, or stop signs.
- < Slow down, look in both directions, and test your brakes.
- < Be certain you don't see a train. Roll down windows; turn off fans and radios; listen for warning whistles.
- < If a stop is needed, stop no closer than 15 feet and no farther than 50 feet from the tracks.

As you begin to cross:

- < Never stop on the tracks—never enter a crossing unless you have enough space to fully clear the tracks.
- < If the gate comes down after you have started across, drive through the gate even if it means breaking the gate—the gate is designed to break.

If you get stuck on the tracks:



Beware! Trailers with low ground clearance can get stuck on raised crossings.

(A train and a low-ground-clearance trailer collide every two weeks!)

- < Get out of the truck and quickly move away from the crossing in the direction of the approaching train to avoid injury from debris.
- < **Immediately call the posted 1-800 number or 911 to alert police about the stalled vehicle and ensure the railroad is contacted.** Provide the exact location of the crossing, using the DOT/AAR crossing number (see sample), which may be posted on the crossbuck post or signal pole, box, or bungalow, and the name of the road or highway which crosses the tracks.



Try to plan your route to avoid crossing railroad tracks.



New Federal statistics find that:

- < More than nine times per week, a truck with a trailer and a train collide, and there are many more near-hits than collisions.

Did you know:

- < Nearly every 115 minutes, someone in America is hit by a train.
- < Trains cannot stop quickly or steer out of the way.
- < Trains appear to be approaching more slowly than their actual speed. Trust the warning signals, not your senses.
- < An average train of 6,000 tons traveling at 55 mph takes a mile or more to stop.
- < Nearly half of all collisions occur at railroad crossings equipped with properly functioning automatic warning devices (flashing lights with bells or gates with lights and bells)—these warning signals must be obeyed.
- < A motorist is 40 times more likely to die when involved in a collision with a train than in a collision with another motor vehicle.



Helpful Resources:

Federal Railroad Administration	Office of Public Affairs	(202) 493-6024
Federal Highway Administration	Office of Public Affairs	(202) 366-0660
Federal Transit Administration	Office of Safety & Security	(202) 366-2896
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ...	Office of Public Affairs	(202) 366-9550
Operation Lifesaver, Inc.		(800) 537-6224
American Trucking Associations	Safety Policy Department	(703) 838-1847



WHEN APPROACHING ANY RAILROAD TRACKS
Always Expect A Train!

