

Know the Law

Ohio Operation Lifesaver has been raising Public Awareness with their Rail Safety Education programs since 1978.

It is illegal to cross tracks when a train is approaching and warning lights or audible signals are activated. You are also required to yield the right-of-way to an approaching train if the crossing warning device is a passive crossbuck. **The law also states that "no person shall drive any vehicle through, or under any crossing gate or barrier at a railroad crossing while the gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or closed" (Ohio Revised Code 4511.62).** Ohio law requires all vehicles to stop (no closer than 15 feet, but not more than 50 feet from the track) at highway/rail crossings when a train is approaching.

Ohio Operation Lifesaver

P.O. Box 506
Pioneer, OH 43554
(419) 551-6398
Email: oplifeohio@gmail.com
oil.org/oh



Department of
Public Safety

1970 West Broad Street
P.O. Box 182081
Columbus, OH 43218-2081
(614) 466-4775

www.publicsafety.ohio.gov

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HSY 7752 9/19 [760-1282]

Don't Let Life End Here
Trains Can't Yield



Don't be a Pop Can

Imagine that you're rushing to an emergency situation driving 60 m.p.h. Suddenly, an empty pop can appears and rolls in front of you. You brake to avoid it, but still crush the can beneath your tires. No harm is done to you or your vehicle, but the pop can is flatter than a pancake.

Now think about this: Your vehicle is a pop can if hit by a train. The weight ratios are the same. Even if the train engineer sees your vehicle and slows to five m.p.h., the force will still crush your vehicle and push it 40-50 yards down the track.

Look, Listen and Live

Whether you are an emergency medical technician, a law enforcement officer, a firefighter, or just on a leisurely drive, it is important to remember that you need to approach railroad crossings with extreme caution.



Know the Facts

Approximately every three hours, either a vehicle or a pedestrian is struck by a train in the United States. Ohio is ranked as one of the leading states in the nation for such tragedies.

Ohio has over 5,800 miles of active railroad tracks with 6,100 public grade crossings. Over half of these have train-activated gates or flashers.

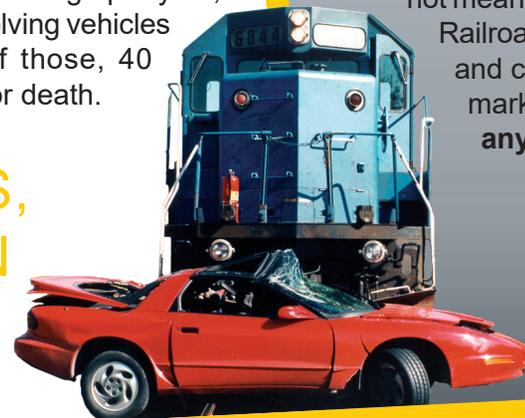
Motorists are 20 times more likely to die in a crash involving a train than in a collision involving any other type of motor vehicle. On average per year, there are over 150 collisions involving vehicles or pedestrians with trains. Of those, 40 percent result in severe injury or death.

**SEE TRACKS,
THINK TRAIN**

Don't Make These Common Mistakes

Remember, these common errors can cost you your life!

- A train approaching looks farther away than it actually is. A train one mile away would take less than a minute to cross your path.
- Don't try to out-race a train. When it's a tie at the crossing, YOU LOSE!
- Don't fail to observe the warning signs. About half of the vehicle/train collisions occur at crossings with active warning devices (gates, lights, bells).
- As a train clears a crossing, don't immediately start to cross the tracks without looking for other trains. You could be struck by another train running on an adjacent track.
- Even though you travel back and forth over the same tracks every day does not mean you should not use caution. Railroads operate around the clock and change schedules based on market conditions. **Remember, any time is train time!**



Average freight train stopping distance:

- 55 m.p.h. = one mile or more (18 football fields).

Eight-car passenger train stopping distance:

- 79 m.p.h. = one mile or more (18 football fields).