



Railroad Crossings

The Federal Railroad Administration has released its annual data on incidents on railroad tracks; it shows that in 2018, **336 drivers** went around a gate and were struck by a train; **99 people** died in those crashes – **a 10-year high**. Overall, the number of incidents at railroad crossings dropped from **12,000** in 1975 to **2,200** in 2018, and fatalities dropped from **917** to **270** in that same time period.

Safety Tips for Truck Drivers

- ****** At 55 mph, it can take a mile or more to stop a train. ******
- **Stop no closer than 15 feet (one car length) from the crossing.** If you are in traffic, don't start if you can't safely clear the crossing. **Trains are 3 feet wider than the tracks, on each side.**
- **Make sure that trailer legs are in the up position,** non-retracted trailer legs can cause trailers to become stuck on crossings.
- **Cell phones are the top distraction for all drivers.**
- **Trains and Trucks don't mix!** Never race a train to the crossing even if you tie, **you lose.**
- **The train you see is closer and faster moving than you think.** If you see a train approaching, **wait for it to go by** before you proceed across the tracks.
- **Be aware that trains cannot stop quickly.** Even if the locomotive engineer sees you, a freight train moving at 55 miles per hour can take a mile or more to stop once the emergency brakes are applied. **That's 18 football fields.**
- **Never drive around lowered gates, it's illegal and deadly.** If you suspect a signal is malfunctioning, call the 1-800 number posted on or near the crossing signal or your local law enforcement agency.
- **Do not get trapped on the tracks.** Proceed through a highway-rail grade crossing only if you are sure you can completely clear the crossing without stopping. **Remember,** the train is three feet wider than the tracks on both sides.
- **If your vehicle ever stalls on a track with a train coming, get out immediately and move quickly away from the tracks in the direction from which the train is coming.** If you run in the same direction the train is traveling, when the train hits your vehicle, you could be injured by flying debris. Call your local law enforcement agency for assistance.
- **At a multiple track crossing waiting for a train to pass, watch out for a second train on the other tracks, approaching from either direction.**
- **When you need to cross train tracks, go to a designated crossing, look both ways, and cross the tracks quickly, without stopping.** Remember it isn't safe to stop closer than 15 feet from a rail.
- **Always expect a train.** Freight trains do not follow set schedules.
- **If you get stuck at the crossing, get out, call the 800-number posted at the crossing, or call the local police to alert trains of your position.** *(Information provided by Operation Lifesaver)*

Focus- On your surroundings, to know when you are near or must cross railroad crossings.

Anticipate- Always being safe at work, especially near railroad crossings. On the road, **YOU** are the big fish!

Correct- Get familiar with the roads you will drive and these railroad crossing tips!

Talk- **COMMUNICATE** issues and hazards that you experience with CPC, Dispatch, and fellow drivers to minimize risk on your daily trips. **It could save an injury, accident, or a life!**