



# Driving Safety Tips

**N**ever 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.

TO REPORT STALLED VEHICLE ON TRACKS OR OTHER EMERGENCY CALL 1-800-832-5452 AND REFER TO CROSSING #025017A ON NAVAJO BLVD

**N**ever race a train to the crossing — even if you tie, you lose.

**D**o not get trapped on the tracks. Only proceed through a highway-rail grade crossing 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.

**I**f your vehicle ever stalls on a track while a train is 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 car you could be injured by flying debris. Call your local law enforcement agency for assistance.

**A**t a multiple track crossing waiting for a train to pass, watch out for a second train on the other tracks, approaching in either direction.

**ALWAYS EXPECT A TRAIN!** Freight trains do not follow set schedules.

**B**e 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!

**D**o not be fooled — 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.

**W**hen you need to cross train tracks, go to a designated crossing, look both ways, and cross the tracks quickly, without stopping. Remember that it isn't safe to stop closer than 15 feet from a rail.



## Louisiana Highway-Rail and Trespass Statistics

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Hwy-Rail Incidents	121	113	84	106
Hwy-Rail Fatalities	14	15	11	13
Hwy-Rail Injuries	57	43	35	65
Trespass Fatalities	8	6	10	11
Trespass Injuries	11	9	5	6

## In 2010, Louisiana was...

- 5th** in the nation in highway-rail collisions
- 4th** in the nation in highway-rail fatalities
- 3rd** in the nation in highway-rail injuries
- 14th** in trespass casualties

## Louisiana has...

approximately 2,800 miles of railroad tracks

approximately 5,600 highway-rail grade crossings in the state

**Target Parishes:** Allen, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Lafayette, Orleans, Ouachita, Sabine, St. Landry, Tangipahoa

**F**reight trains do not travel on a predictable schedule; schedules for passenger trains change. Always expect a train at every highway-rail intersection.

**T**rain tracks are private property, no matter which railroad owns them. Trains have the right of way 100% of the time — over ambulances, fire engines, cars, the police and pedestrians.

**I**f there are rails on the railroad ties, assume that the track is in use, even if there are weeds or the track looks "rusty."

**A** typical locomotive weighs approximately 400,000 pounds or 200 tons. When 100 railcars are added to the locomotive, the train can weigh approximately 6,000 tons. The weight ratio of an automobile to a train is proportional to a soda can and an automobile.

**A** train may extend three feet or more outside the steel rail, which makes the safety zone for pedestrians well beyond the rails themselves.

**T**rains cannot stop quickly. It is a simple law of physics: the huge weight and size of the train and the speed of the train dictate how quickly it can stop under ideal conditions. A 100-car freight train traveling at 55 miles per hour will need more than a mile to stop — that's approximately 18 football fields — once the train is set into emergency braking.



**T**here are approximately 140,000 miles of railroad tracks in the United States (source: Association of American Railroads, 2008).

**T**rains can move in either direction at any time. Trains are sometimes pushed by locomotives instead of being pulled. This is especially true in commuter and light rail passenger service.

**M**odern trains are quieter than ever, with no telltale "clackety-clack." Also, an approaching train will always be closer and moving faster than you think.

## Quick Tips for Pedestrian Rail Safety

**C**ross tracks **ONLY** at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings. Observe and obey all warning signs and signals.

**N**ever walk down a train track; it's illegal and it's dangerous. By the time a locomotive engineer can see a trespasser or a vehicle on the tracks, it is too late. The train cannot stop quickly enough to avoid a collision.

**R**emember: Rails and recreation do not mix!

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