



Rail Safety Tips For People Using Wheeled Mobility Devices

Whether you are using a wheelchair, walker or a scooter, you will most likely come across train tracks at some point—and tracks pose particular challenges for people using wheeled mobility devices. Follow these tips to ensure you stay safe the next time you encounter railway tracks—it could save your life.



USE DESIGNATED CROSSINGS

Only cross railway tracks at designated crossings, where the tracks are most level with the ground. You could get stuck or fall trying to cross tracks at any other place, which could be deadly. Remember, trains can come at any time, from either direction, and on any track. They also don't always run on a set schedule.



STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN FOR TRAINS

At a crossing, stop, look both ways and listen for approaching trains; proceed only if you are sure it is safe to do so. If a train is approaching, or if railway warning signals are activated, stop behind any gates or stop lines—or no closer than 5 metres from the nearest rail—and wait for the train to pass. Cross only after the warning signals have ceased and you are certain no other trains are approaching, from either direction, on any track.



PLAN AHEAD

Plan your crossing. Establish your position so you can cross the tracks at a 90-degree angle, or as close to it as possible. Do a shoulder check and, if necessary, use hand signals to make sure motorists, pedestrians and cyclists know your intentions.



PROCEED WITH CAUTION

Metal tracks can be slippery, especially when wet or in snowy conditions; the wheels of your mobility device could skid if you cross too fast or don't cross at a right angle. Also, you may have reduced traction as a result of accumulated gravel and dirt—so proceed with caution.



GET IMMEDIATE HELP IF YOU GET STUCK

If your mobility device breaks down or gets stuck at a railway crossing, you need to get away from the tracks immediately. Ask passing pedestrians, cyclists or motorists for help in getting you out of your mobility device and moved to a safe distance away (at least 30 metres away from the tracks). Contact the railway company immediately and let them know there is a mobility device on the tracks. Railways post their emergency numbers and crossing locations on a blue sign under the crossbuck or near the crossing. This information may also be displayed on a nearby signal house. If you don't see a railway emergency number, call 911.

REMEMBER:

- Trains are wider than the tracks. They can extend on both sides by as much as 1 metre—so keep your distance.
- Beware of motor vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians also using railway crossings. They may not be aware that people using wheeled mobility devices sometimes need to move into traffic to cross tracks at a safe angle.
- Report any dangerous conditions at railway crossings directly to the railway company or by calling 911.
- An optical illusion makes it hard to determine a train's distance from you, or its speed. Trains are usually a lot closer than they seem—and travel a lot faster.

Know the Signs and Signals

FLASHING RED LIGHTS

STOP when flashing. DO NOT proceed until the lights stop flashing. If the lights begin flashing after you start crossing the tracks, keep going.

CROSSBUCK

YIELD if a train is approaching. Trains always have the right-of-way.

LOWERING GATES AND FLASHING RED LIGHTS

A train is approaching (even if you don't see it yet). DO NOT proceed until the lights turn off and the gates go up. It's illegal and dangerous to go around lowered gates.

MULTIPLE TRACKS

Multiple tracks are present. Multiple tracks may mean multiple trains. Wait until you can see clearly down the tracks in both directions before proceeding.



PAVEMENT MARKINGS

A large "X" and a wide white line on the road mean you're approaching a railway crossing. Stay behind the white stop line while waiting for a train to pass. No stop line? Stop at least 5 metres from the nearest rail.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SIGN (ENS)

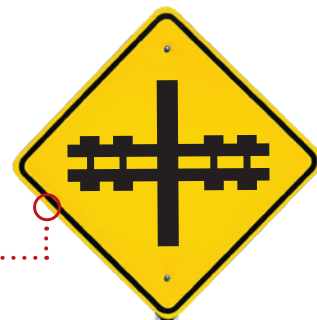
This is the first phone number to call if a vehicle is stuck or stalls on the tracks (this number may also be found on the signal house). You can also dial it to report people, vehicles or debris on the tracks, as well as damaged signs or signals, or obstructed views. The mile post and subdivision listed on the sign will help the railway to identify your location.

LOW GROUND CLEARANCE CROSSING

Raised crossing ahead. If you drive anything low to the ground — like a bus, truck, sports car or trailer — you're at risk of getting hung up on the tracks. DO NOT proceed until you know your vehicle will clear the tracks.

ADVANCE WARNING

Slow down, look, listen, and BE PREPARED TO STOP. Typically, this is the first sign you see when approaching a railway crossing.



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