

## Your work

with people experiencing homelessness in your community is an important resource. You have a unique opportunity to share life-saving rail safety information. You can save lives by empowering them to make safe choice around railroad tracks and trains.

Walking on tracks or hopping freight trains is risky and can cause severe injury or death. We want you and those you serve to know that tracks are for trains. Sharing the messages throughout this brochure, *Choose Safety: Respect the Rails*, will prevent needless injuries and deaths.

*Operation Lifesaver is committed to sharing the rail safety message to reduce deaths and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and around tracks and trains.*



## Did you know?

- » Pedestrian railroad incidents are a leading cause of death on railroad tracks.
- » Walking and camping close to railroad tracks is dangerous and illegal.
- » Trespassing on railroad tracks and property is the leading cause of rail-related deaths in the U.S.
- » Trains are quieter and faster than you think.
- » Always expect a train. Trains can run on any track, at any time, in either direction.

Operation Lifesaver is a mission driven rail safety education non-profit powered by dedicated people. Our goal is to end collisions, deaths and injuries on and around railroad tracks and trains.

OLI offers free in-person and virtual safety presentations across the U.S. to student drivers, professional drivers, school bus operators, general motorists, law enforcement, emergency responders, pedestrians, school and community groups and more.

For more information on *Choose Safety: Respect the Rails* or to request a free safety presentation for you and your clients, please contact your State Coordinator by visiting Operation Lifesaver at [oli.org](http://oli.org) or calling (800) 537-6224.



## Volunteer with us!

Learn more about Operation Lifesaver at [oli.org](http://oli.org) or (800) 537-6224.

# CHOOSE SAFETY



# RESPECT THE RAILS



Empower the homeless population to make safe choices around railroad tracks and trains



Empower people experiencing homelessness to make **Safe Choices.**

## How Can You Help Stop Track Tragedies?

- » Share rail safety messages in this brochure
- » Request FREE *Choose Safety* posters
- » Schedule a free safety presentation
- » Empower others to make safe decisions around tracks and trains
- » Inform railroads of shortcuts near train tracks using the number on the closest Blue and White Emergency Notification System Sign.

### Cross Legally and Safely

The only safe and legal place for anyone to cross railroad tracks is at designated crossings. Always obey warning signs and signals. Always look for a train before proceeding.

### Avoid Getting Stuck

Before crossing, be sure there is space on the other side to completely clear the tracks. Trains overhang tracks. When driving, leave at least 15 feet between the front and rear of your vehicle and the nearest rail. Avoid shifting gears while crossing railroad tracks.

### Know the Law

NEVER walk, jog, bike, fish, or hunt from railroad tracks or bridges. Railroad tracks, trestles, yards, and equipment are private property and being on them is trespassing, it's illegal. You can be fined or arrested.

### Get out! Get away! Find the Blue & White Sign

If your vehicle gets stuck or stalls at a crossing, get everyone out and far away immediately, even if you do not see a train. **Call the number on the Blue and White Emergency Notification System (ENS) sign and share the crossing ID number with the dispatcher.** No sign? Dial 911. Also use the ENS to report people, vehicles or debris on the tracks, damaged signs or signals and obstructed views.



All numbers vary by location.



## Know the Facts

- » In the U.S., a person or vehicle is hit by a train every 3 hours.
- » Trains are quieter and faster than you think – only trains belong on tracks.
- » The average freight train traveling 55 miles per hour can take a mile or more to stop – the length of 18 football fields.



## Make Safe Choices

### Wait, Look Both Ways

Always expect a train. Trains may be closer and traveling faster than they appear. Trains can run on any track, at any time, from either direction. Multiple tracks may mean multiple trains. Ensure you can clearly see down the tracks in both directions before proceeding. Avoid crossing while lights are flashing or gates are down. Never try to beat a train.

### Limit Distractions

Texting, wearing headphones and other distractions may prevent you from hearing an approaching train.



## Choose Safety

Hopping aboard railroad equipment, walking around or under lowered gates, and crawling through or under trains can cost you a limb or your life. Trains and railroad yards are NOT playgrounds.



Do not walk, gather or camp along the right-of-way or on train equipment.



### Stay off Railroad Bridges and Out of Railroad Tunnels

There is ONLY ROOM for trains on railroad bridges and trestles. Trains overhang tracks. Loose straps hanging from freight cars may extend much further. .



Additional information

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