



DECIDE SMART,

ARRIVE SAFE

FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

DECIDE SMART, ARRIVE SAFE WAS DEVELOPED BY OPERATION LIFESAVER, INC. (OLI) IN CONJUNCTION WITH TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES AND STATE TRAINING COORDINATORS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

OLI is a national, non-profit, public education program dedicated to ending collisions, deaths and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and along railroad rights-of-way.

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY NAME:

AGENCY CONTACT NAME:

AGENCY PHONE NUMBER/EMAIL:



KNOW THE SIGNS AND SIGNALS



STOP LINE

This pavement marking indicates the place where your school bus should stop before the tracks.

NOTE: *Not all crossings have a stop line. If there is no stop line, stop no closer than 15 feet and no farther than 50 feet from the nearest rail.*



ADVANCE WARNING SIGN

This is your first visual marker that you are approaching a railroad crossing.



CROSSBUCK SIGN

You are about to cross a railroad crossing. This sign designates the only safe and legal place to cross railroad tracks. Be prepared to stop!



MULTIPLE TRACKS SIGN

This sign indicates the number of tracks you will cross. Be extra careful and check all directions before crossing.



EXEMPT SIGN

In some states, school buses can cross without stopping. **You must check with your agency and follow their protocols.**



EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (ENS) SIGN

To report emergencies and malfunctions, call the number on the ENS sign. No ENS sign? Call 911.

THE BLUE AND WHITE SIGN SHARES:

- The emergency contact phone number.
- USDOT Grade Crossing number, a unique crossing identification number.



LOW GROUND CLEARANCE SIGN

Contact your supervisor for a possible alternate route as well as agency protocols.

KNOW THE FACTS

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT TRAINS AND TRACKS FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

1. Every 3 hours in the U.S., a person or vehicle is hit by a train.
2. Transit trains in the U.S. can reach speeds over 110 mph.
3. It can take up to a mile or more for trains to come to a full and complete stop.
4. Trains can run on any track, at any time, from either direction.
5. Trains have no steering wheel; trains cannot swerve.
6. Trains are heavy.

NOTE: State and local laws may vary. Always follow your agency and district protocols.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

KEY TIPS AND PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR MAKING SMART DECISIONS AT A CROSSING

1. When coming up to a crossing, turn your hazard lights on and tap your brakes to warn cars behind you that you will be stopping the school bus.
2. Open your driver's side window and use your noise-canceling components.
3. While stopped, look and listen carefully in each direction for approaching trains.
4. Move your head and shoulders to see around obstructions while maintaining assured clear distance.
5. Check for traffic around you before you start to move at a crossing.

6. Remember to keep your windows open, hazard lights on and noise cancellation activated until fully clear of the tracks.
7. **Plan for an emergency evacuation:** If your school bus stalls or is stuck on the tracks or you are required to evacuate your school bus for any reason, review these steps:
 - a. **Know before you go.** Scout your route. Write down the crossing number of any crossing along your route before the school year starts. Note the safest location at each crossing where you would direct riders in the event of an evacuation.
 - b. **Plan** how you would evacuate the school bus considering all points of exit.
 - c. **When evacuating**, get the riders out quickly and without panic. Have a designated place to meet.
 - d. Once everyone is safely evacuated, if no train is approaching, follow your agency's emergency protocols including, when possible, calling the number on the Blue and White ENS sign and giving the unique crossing ID number. No Blue and White ENS sign? Call 911.
 - e. If a train is approaching, direct riders to run **AWAY FROM THE TRACKS** toward the train at a 45-degree angle to avoid debris.

REMEMBER: If you don't fit, don't commit!



5 ALIVE!

FIVE KEY STEPS TO TAKE AT EACH CROSSING



1. Prepare to stop!



4. Prepare to cross.



2. Minimize Distractions!



5. Proceed across the tracks when it is safe. Do not switch gears, be sure that your bus can fully cross the tracks before choosing to go!



3. Come to a full and complete stop. Stop no closer than 15 feet from the crossing.



HELP STOP

TRACK TRAGEDIES

OLI.ORG

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(800) 537-6224

