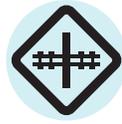




Rail Safety Tips for Drivers

Whether you are a new driver or a seasoned one, staying safe around railway tracks is all about knowing the rules. Be sure to follow these tips—they could save your life.



KNOW YOUR RAILWAY SIGNS
Railway signs and warning devices are installed along roads and at railway crossings to warn drivers and control traffic. They save lives, so get to know what they mean.



LOOK AND LISTEN FOR TRAINS
When approaching a railway crossing, slow down, look both ways and listen for trains. Turn off any music, ask passengers to be quiet, and open your window to better hear approaching trains. 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.



OBEY ALL RAILWAY SIGNS AND SIGNALS
Obey all railway signs and warning devices. At railway crossings with active warning devices, remain stopped until the gates are fully raised and the lights stop flashing. Before proceeding through any railway crossing, ensure you have a clear view of the tracks and are certain no other trains are approaching from either direction, on any track. If the lights begin to flash, or the gates start to lower after you start crossing the tracks, don't stop! It is safer to keep going than to try to reverse.



STAY ALERT
You can't avoid getting struck by a train if you can't hear or see it coming. Don't use your cell phone or other devices while driving. Today's trains are fast and extremely quiet, so if you are distracted when approaching a railway crossing, you are putting your life—and the lives of your passengers—in danger.



BE AWARE OF OTHER ROAD USERS
Be aware that cyclists and users of wheeled mobility devices move more slowly than other vehicles, and may require additional room when proceeding through a railway crossing. Also, school buses and other vehicles may be required to stop at all crossings—so be prepared to stop.



NEVER RACE A TRAIN
Racing a train to a railway crossing could cost you your life. A train hitting a car is like a car running over a pop can: the average freight train weighs more than 5.5million kg. In comparison, a car weighs around 1,375 kg. Because of a train's size, it is also hard to judge how far away it is or what speed it is travelling at—some can go as fast as 160 km/h.



LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE IF IT STALLS OR GETS STUCK
A car can break down at any time—and if it happens on railway tracks, it could be deadly. If your vehicle stalls or gets stuck on the tracks, get yourself and your passengers out of it immediately and move to a safe distance (at least 30 metres away from the track). Contact the railway company and let them know there is a vehicle on the tracks (most companies post their emergency numbers at crossings, either behind the crossbuck or on the signal house) or call 911.



OBEY ALL POLICE OR FLAG PEOPLE
If a police officer or railway flag person is at the crossing, obey their directions. But remember, it is ultimately your responsibility to ensure it's safe to cross the tracks by looking in both directions and listening for approaching trains.

- REMEMBER:**
- Trains can take up to 2 km to come to a complete stop. That's the length of 18 football fields.
 - Always drive at a speed that allows you to stop within the distance of your headlights, so you have a clear view of the road ahead.
 - Take extra care at night and in winter. Snowy or nighttime conditions can reduce visibility, making it hard to see passing trains or railway crossings.
 - A motorist is 40 times more likely to die in a collision with a train than in a collision involving another motor vehicle.