

# Man: No Match For A Train!

## RULES YOU NEED TO KNOW, REMEMBER, and PRACTICE:

Freight trains don't always travel at fixed times, and schedules for passenger trains often change as needed. Therefore, **ALWAYS EXPECT THAT A TRAIN MAY BE ON COURSE TO CROSS** a highway-rail intersection at any time. This includes: **Busy Cities, Industrial Settings and even small, residential and Country Towns!!!**

1. All train tracks are private property. **Never walk on tracks**; it is illegal to trespass and highly dangerous. By the time a locomotive engineer sees a trespasser or vehicle on the tracks **it's too late**. It takes the average freight train traveling at **55 mph** more than a mile—the length of 18 football fields—to bring it to a stop. Due to its velocity and weight, **trains cannot swerve nor stop quickly enough** to avoid a collision.
2. The average **locomotive weighs about 400,000 pounds** or 200 tons; in addition (with a string of cars) **it can weigh up to 6,000 tons**. This makes the weight ratio of a car to a train proportional to that of a soda can to a car.
3. Trains have the **right of way 100% of the time** over cars, trucks, and even over emergency vehicles and pedestrians.

4. A train can extend 3 feet or more beyond the steel rails, putting the safety zone for pedestrians well beyond the 3 foot mark. If there are tracks on the railroad ties **always assume the track is in use**, even if there are weeds present or the track appears to be **UNUSED OR OUT OF SERVICE**.
5. Do not cross the tracks immediately after a train passes. A second train might be blocked by the first. Trains can come from either direction at any time. Wait until you can see clearly around the first train **IN BOTH DIRECTIONS!**
6. Today's trains are quieter than ever, sometime producing no telltale "clickety-clack" sounds. Approaching trains are **ALWAYS CLOSER & MOVING FASTER** than you think!
7. Remember to cross train tracks **only at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings**, and obey all warning signs and signals posted at each location. Note: not all crossings have **RED WARNING LIGHTS!**
8. **Stay alert** around railroad tracks. There should be no texting, wearing headphones or engaging in other distractions that would prevent you from hearing an approaching train; hence, never mix crossing railroad tracks and recreation together.
9. Always **TURN DOWN MUSIC**, look both ways at least twice (**perhaps 3 times at night**) and let down windows if necessary to ensure that the path is safe before proceeding to cross any railroad track.
10. **DO NOT TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS ON RAILROAD TRACKS**. In recent years, photographers have been notorious for taking safety risks and ignoring laws in order to get **"the perfect shot"**. Union Pacific and other organizations have been urging photographers to stay off railroad tracks; after all, it's not worth losing a life!

As part of the mission to reduce deaths and injuries at railroad crossings, always:

- ***Maintain Awareness***
- ***Maintain Wisdom***
- ***Realize that...***

***Man is No Match for a Train!!***