

## If Your Vehicle is Stuck on the Tracks

- **Evacuate immediately!**
- Walk in the direction of an oncoming train, away from the tracks at a 45-degree angle to avoid being hit by debris if the train should strike your vehicle.
- When you are safely away from the tracks, locate the Emergency Notification System (ENS) sign, located in the vicinity of the grade crossing.
- Call the railroad emergency phone number on the sign, or dial 911. Tell them a vehicle is on the tracks. Provide the crossing identification code also on the sign, and the name of the closest road or highway.

## Railroad Safety Facts

- If you, or your vehicle, is on or near railroad tracks you are trespassing, which is both **DANGEROUS** and **ILLEGAL!**
- Approximately every three hours, a person or vehicle is struck by a train somewhere in the United States.
- A train traveling at 55 miles per hour can take approximately one mile, or the length of about 18 football fields to stop.
- It only takes about 20 seconds for a train to be at the crossing once the lights start flashing.
- The average train is at least three feet wider than the track on each side.
- A train can travel on any track, in any direction, at any time.



## Railroad Safety Statistics

94% of all rail-related fatalities and injuries occur at railroad crossings, or are due to trespassing.

***Sadly, almost all of these deaths and injuries are preventable.***

Trespassing along railroad rights-of-way is the leading cause of rail-related deaths in America.

Nationally, hundreds of trespassing-related fatalities occur each year.

## What is a Farm Grade Crossing?

A farm grade crossing is a type of highway/rail grade crossing where a private roadway used for the movement of farm motor vehicles, farm machinery, or livestock in connection with agricultural pursuits, forestry, or other land-productive purposes crosses one or more railroad tracks at grade. Most farm grade crossings are passive, rather than active crossings.

For more information on rail safety visit:  
[www.stayoffthetracks.org](http://www.stayoffthetracks.org)

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# Passive Railroad Crossings



A passive railroad crossing does not have electronic warning devices, such as bells, gates or flashing lights. It will have a crossbuck, and a yield or stop sign.

These crossings usually have pavement markings or signs.

## At Passive Railroad Crossings you need to:

- Be extra cautious and only cross when the tracks are clear.
- Be prepared to come

to a full stop at the crossing.

- Look both ways, and listen.
- Understand the signs.
- Never race a train.
- Never stop on tracks.
- **DO NOT** enter the crossing unless you can drive completely through without stopping!
- Remember that trains are wider than the track. Before you pull onto the track, be sure there is enough room on the other side for the back of your vehicle (and any overhanging cargo) to be at least 6 feet beyond the furthest rail.

Always be aware of your surroundings! If an area is deemed a **"Quiet Zone"**, you will receive no audible warning of a train headed in your direction. ***The engineer will not blow the horn when approaching the crossing.***

# Active Railroad Crossings

An active railroad crossing has electronic warning devices, and in most cases crossing gates.



At active crossings, 20 seconds is the minimum amount of time that it takes a train to reach the crossing once the warning devices activate.

## Emergency Notification System Sign

An Emergency Notification System (ENS) sign is blue and white and is posted at or near all grade crossings. The sign lists a telephone number and the crossing's identification code (six numbers and a letter) to be used in an emergency to notify railroad dispatchers 24/7/365 that something is obstructing the tracks.



### The following steps should taken to activate the ENS system:

- Call the toll-free number on the sign.
- Provide the dispatcher with the identification code (six numbers and a letter) so they know the exact location of the problem you are reporting.
- Tell the dispatcher that something is on or blocking the tracks so they can stop or slow train traffic down approaching that crossing.