



# PEACOCK GROUP SAFETY MEETING

## DRIVING AND RAIL ROAD CROSSINGS

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In 1998, 431 people were killed and 1,303 seriously injured in 3,508 highway-rail grade crossing collisions (combined for public and private crossings).

536 people were killed and 513 were injured while trespassing on railroad right-of-way and property.

Approximately every 115 minutes a vehicle or a pedestrian is struck by a train in the United States.

A motorist is 40 times more likely to die in a collision involving a train than in a collision involving another motor vehicle.

There are approximately 260,000 public, private and pedestrian at-grade highway-rail grade crossings in the United States.

More people die in highway-rail crashes each year than in commercial airline crashes in any average year.

Nearly 50 percent of crashes at public grade crossing occur where active warning devices (gates, lights, bells) exist.

Most highway crashes occur within 25 miles of the motorist's home.

Trains cannot stop quickly:

Average freight train approximate stopping distance

55 mph = 5,260 feet or 1 mile

8-car passenger train approximate stopping distance

79 mph = 6,000 feet or 1-1/8 miles

The majority of highway-rail crashes occur when the train is traveling less than 30 mph.

Railroad tracks, yards and equipment are private property and trespassers are subject to arrest and fines.

Highway-rail grade crossing collisions (combined for public and private crossings).\*

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### Driving Tips

Never drive around lowered gates — It's illegal and deadly. If you suspect a signal is malfunctioning, call your local law enforcement agency or the railroad, OR dial 911.

Never race a train to the crossing — Even if you tie, you lose.

Do not get trapped on a crossing. Only proceed through a crossing if you are sure you can cross all the track.

Get out of your vehicle if it stalls on a crossing and call your local law enforcement agency for assistance.

Watch out for a second train when crossing multiple tracks.

Expect a train on the track at any time. Trains do not follow set schedules.

Be aware trains cannot stop quickly. It can take a mile or more to stop once the emergency brakes are applied. When the engineer can see you it is already too late to be able to avoid a collision.

Do not misjudge the train's speed and distance. A train's large mass makes it impossible to accurately judge its speed and distance.

Trains cannot stop quickly:

150-car freight train approximate stopping distance

30 mph = 3,500 feet or 2/3 of a mile

50 mph = 8,000 feet or 1 1/2 miles

8-car passenger train approximate stopping distance

60 mph = 3,500 feet or 2/3 of a mile

79 mph = 6,000 feet or 1 1/8 miles

Be aware trains DO NOT follow set schedules. Any Time is Train Time!

For more information see the 'Operation Lifesaver' at <http://www.oli.org/> "Operation Lifesaver" is an organization dedicated to rail way safety.

