DRIVING AND RAIL ROAD CROSSINGS
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.

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:

- 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

- 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.