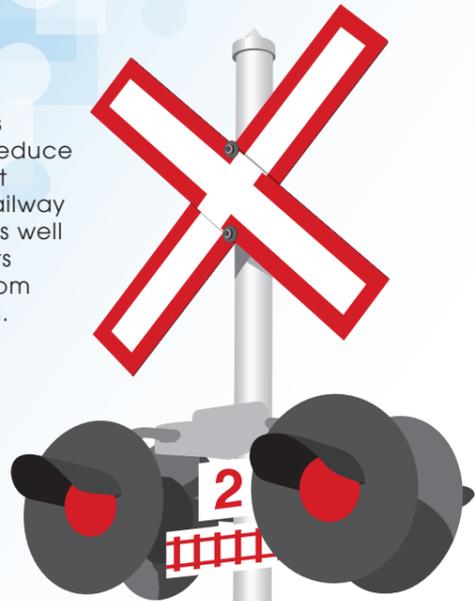


Operation Lifesaver's goal is to reduce collisions at highway/railway crossings as well as incidents resulting from trespassing.



Can you make the grade?



Why do collisions occur at highway/railway crossings?

Statistics show that more than half of the collisions involving highway/railway crossings happen at crossings equipped with lights and bell with or without gates. A motorist who ignores the warning devices takes an unnecessary risk with their life and that of others. Keep in mind that these actions are illegal and can be subject to fines and demerit points. Ultimately, it is your responsibility as a driver to yield to trains at crossings. **LOOK, LISTEN AND LIVE!**

Take the Quiz

Come aboard the **Operation Lifesaver** train and take a moment to complete the following quiz. Remember to use your common sense, because failure to do so could be fatal!

- 1 The Advance Warning Sign tells you:** 
 - A. There is a railway yard nearby
 - B. To slow down, you are approaching a railway crossing
 - C. There is only one railway track ahead
- 2 The crossbuck sign tells you:** 
 - A. To hurry across the tracks
 - B. There is only one railway track ahead
 - C. To slow down, look, listen, and be prepared to yield for an approaching train
- 3 Trains sound the engine whistle at most highway/railway crossings as a safety warning. When you are approaching a crossing and hear an engine whistle, you must:**
 - A. Be prepared to stop
 - B. If a train is approaching, stop at least 5 metres from the nearest rail
 - C. Ensure all tracks are clear before proceeding
 - D. All of the above
- 4 You are driving across the tracks. The crossing lights start flashing and the gates come down while you are on the tracks. You should:**
 - A. Keep going
 - B. Abandon the vehicle
 - C. Stop
 - D. Back up

Operation Lifesaver is a partnership initiative of the Railway Association of Canada and Transport Canada and works in cooperation with the rail industry, government, police, unions and many public organizations and community groups.

Statistics involving highway/railway crossings and trespassers on railway property

Annually in Canada:

Collisions.....	337
Fatalities.....	89
Serious injuries.....	69

Note: Statistics are based on a 5-year average and supplied by the Transportation Safety Board of Canada www.tsb.gc.ca

- 5 Most highway/railway crossing collisions involve drivers living within _____ of the location of the collision.**
 - A. 10 km
 - B. 40 km
 - C. 65 km
 - D. 100 km
- 6 A freight train with 80 railcars traveling 100 km/h can take _____ distance to stop.**
 - A. Less than 500 metres
 - B. 1 km
 - C. Up to 2 km
 - D. More than 2 km
- 7 Some vehicles stop at all crossings. These may include:**
 - A. Public transit and motor coach vehicles carrying paying passengers
 - B. School buses
 - C. Hazardous material carriers
 - D. All of the above
- 8 The main contributing factor of a train-vehicle collision is:**
 - A. Weather conditions
 - B. Malfunctioning warning devices
 - C. Poor eyesight
 - D. Vehicle driver error

True or False

- 9** It is illegal to drive around crossing gates.
- 10** Never race a train to the crossing.
- 11** It is okay for you to cross when the last car of a train clears the crossing.
- 12** Drivers often drive with their headlights off. This explains why many collisions involve a vehicle slamming into the side of a train at night.
- 13** Avoid stopping on the tracks in a traffic jam.
- 14** A train should be expected on any track at any time.
- 15** If you stall on the tracks when a train is approaching, get away from your vehicle immediately

IMPORTANT SIGNS TO REMEMBER



ADVANCE WARNING SIGN

This sign indicates a highway/railway crossing ahead. **BE PREPARED TO STOP.**



RAILWAY CROSSING SIGN (CROSSBUCK)

The crossbuck tells you that you are at a highway/railway crossing. You must yield to oncoming trains. **SLOW DOWN, LOOK AND BE PREPARED TO STOP FOR TRAINS.**



MULTIPLE TRACKS SIGN

This sign tells you that there is more than one set of tracks at a crossing. Trains could be traveling in any direction on any track. **BE AWARE! THERE COULD BE MORE THAN ONE TRAIN.**

Answers

- 1 B** The advance warning sign warns you in advance of the highway/railway crossing. You should slow down and be alert as you are approaching a crossing.
- 2 C** When you see the crossbuck sign, you know that you are at a railway crossing. It is your responsibility to slow down, look, listen and yield to oncoming trains.
- 3 D** The locomotive engineer is required, by law, to sound the train whistle when approaching most crossings. When you hear it, be prepared to stop. If a train is approaching, stop at least 5 metres from the nearest rail and ensure all tracks are clear before proceeding.
- 4 A** If you are being careful and obeying the traffic signs, you should never find yourself on the tracks while the gates are closing. The crossing lights start flashing before the gates come down. If you should find yourself in this situation, the best thing to do is to keep going.
- 5 B** 40 km. As you might expect, familiarity with highway/railway crossings breeds complacency. Many collisions occur close to home.
- 6 C** Even in an emergency, a train travelling at 100 km/h could take up to 2 km to come to a stop. Remember, locomotives and railcars are a lot heavier than the family vehicle, and it takes a greater distance to stop. You can stop much more quickly!
- 7 D** In some provinces, public transit and motor coach vehicles carrying paying passengers, school buses and hazardous material carriers may stop at all crossings. So be prepared to stop if you are following one of these types of vehicles.
- 8 D** According to studies, vehicle drivers who do not exercise due caution at crossings are the main reason for highway/railway crossing collisions. These drivers, who fail to obey the warning signs and/or signals, take dangerous risks with their lives and those of others.
- 9 TRUE**
It is not only illegal, but also dangerous to drive around gates.
- 10 TRUE**
The race for the crossing was a highlight of many an old movie

comedy; in real life, there is nothing funny about such a scene — it can be deadly, because even in a tie, you lose!

- 11 FALSE**
Do not proceed until you are sure that all tracks are clear and that all applicable automated warning devices have ceased operation — you might walk or drive right into the path or side of a moving train on the same or other track.
- 12 FALSE**
At night, some drivers overdrive their headlights. This means that you drive so fast that you cannot stop in the distance illuminated by your headlights. Slow down when you see the advance warning signs and be prepared to stop.
- 13 TRUE**
Before proceeding across the tracks, be sure there's enough space for your vehicle on the other side. If it doesn't fit, don't commit!
- 14 TRUE**
Don't fall into the trap of knowing a crossing too well. Trains don't always run at scheduled times. Extra trains may run at any time. Remember any time is train time.
- 15 TRUE**
If your vehicle stalls on a crossing, get all the occupants out of the vehicle and away from the track immediately. Do not run! Walk quickly to a point at least 30 metres away from the track. This will prevent you from being struck by flying debris if the train hits the stalled vehicle.

WANT MORE? Check out our website for Newly Licensed Drivers at www.traintodrive.net

In the event of an emergency, or if a dangerous situation exists at a crossing, contact the appropriate authorities. Many railway companies post emergency numbers prominently at crossings. If this is not the case, please call 911 or your local emergency number. **Always ensure that everyone in the area is safely away from the danger.**

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