

Operation Lifesaver

Beginning in 1986 with its first national office, Operation Lifesaver was created to increase awareness of highway-rail grade crossing issues. Volunteers and trained instructors work together to offer educational presentations to schools, communities, and emergency responders regarding railroad safety. Metra has partnered with Operation Lifesaver since 1992.

To schedule an Operation Lifesaver presentation, please contact our Public Safety Coordinator at 312-735-9735.



A Message to Our Customers

The Safety of our employees, passengers and the general public is Metra's top priority, which is why we remain proactive in reinforcing the importance of railroad safety with ongoing public awareness activities. Metra's ongoing efforts to improve safety throughout our system include numerous programs which incorporate education, engineering and enforcement activities. We hope to work together as a community to support the continued education of railroad safety.



RAILROAD CROSSING SAFETY TIPS

Look, Listen, Live



547 W Jackson Blvd
Chicago, IL 60661
www.metrarail.com

Know the Facts

- ◆ A commuter train traveling 79 miles per hour can take a mile or more to stop. That's 18 football fields!
- ◆ Always cross the tracks at the pedestrian or highway crossings. Crossing anywhere else is considered trespassing.

- ◆ Do not walk around or behind lowered gates at a crossing. Never cross the tracks until the lights have stopped flashing and it is safe to do so.
- ◆ Never go between, under or over coach cars, even when they are stopped at a station. The train crew cannot see you and could start the train at any moment, causing serious injury.

- ◆ **Before boarding:** Always stand behind the yellow line!

Don't Be Fooled

- ◆ The speed of an approaching train may appear to be moving slower than it actually is!
- ◆ Do not cross the tracks immediately after your train passes. Often times a second train might be blocked by the first. **Look both ways before crossing.**
- ◆ The locomotive may not always be in front. Metra commuter operations use cab cars to shove in one direction, and locomotives to pull in the other.
Note: Electric High-liner cars can be operated from either end.
- ◆ **Watch the gap:** When boarding and detraining at elevated station platforms.



Highway-Rail Crossing Warnings

Passive Signs

- ◆ At a public railroad crossing, drivers will see an advance warning sign and pavement markings.
- ◆ The crossbuck is a basic warning sign required at all public crossings.



Active Warning Devices

- ◆ Automatic warning devices are placed in high vehicular traffic crossings.
- ◆ All signals activate when a train reaches a pre-determined distance from the crossing to warn pedestrians and motorists of an approaching train.



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**OPERATION
LIFESAVER®**

Look, Listen & Live



Safety is Top Priority

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Metra

RAIL SAFETY WEEK

SEPT
24-30



Know the Facts

- A commuter train traveling 79 miles per hour can take a mile or more to stop. That's 18 football fields!
- Never go between, under or over coach cars, even when they are stopped at a station. The train crew cannot see you and could start the train at any moment, causing serious injury.
- Trains do not have steering wheels. They must follow tracks.
- Trains can come from either direction at any time and can be very quiet. Obey all signs, announcements, and signals. Some commuter trains have locomotives at the back instead of the front, and many are controlled by "cab cars" that don't look like locomotives at all.
- Trains are wider than the tracks by at least three feet on each side. A bridge or tunnel that appears to have plenty of clearance may actually only provide a few inches of space when the track is occupied by a train. Watch pavement markings when parking your car along train tracks that share street lanes.



Don't Be Fooled

- Do not cross the tracks immediately after your train passes, often times a second train might be blocked by the first. Wait until visibility is clear in both directions before crossing.
- Never walk or drive around or behind lowered gates at a crossing! Do not cross the tracks until the lights have stopped flashing and it is safe to do so. You can be fined for failure to obey these signals. The more severe penalty could be serious injury or death!
- Many passenger trains are powered by overhead electric wires which are powered by electric substations located along the railroad rights-of-way. It is dangerous to play around or throw things onto power lines or into substations and electric facilities.
- Pay attention to painted or raised markings at the platform edge, and stay at least three feet from the train while it is coming in or out of the station to avoid being snagged by any loose straps or bags you are carrying.
- Follow directional signs and markings that let you know where it is safe to cross the tracks. Crossing the tracks anywhere else is dangerous and illegal. An ill-timed shortcut can have deadly consequences.
- Whether on foot, bike, skateboard, or in a car, cross only at crossings marked by signs, signals, or pavement markings—and obey any and all warnings, signals, lights and signs.

Highway-Rail Crossing Warnings

Passive Signs

- At a public railroad crossing, drivers will see an advance warning sign and pavement markings.
- The crossbuck is a basic warning sign required at all public crossings.
- When sharing street lanes with trains, be sure to leave at least a car length between your car and the tracks. Don't "anticipate your turn" in the way that leaves you in the path of an oncoming train.

Active Warning Devices

- Automatic warning devices are placed in high vehicular traffic crossings.
- All signals activate when a train reaches a predetermined distance from the crossing to warn pedestrians and motorists of an approaching train.

Laws and Fines

Disobeying a signal indicating the approach of an oncoming train or track equipment is not only a serious safety issue, it's illegal. First time offenders will incur a \$500 fine for trespassing on the tracks when the grade crossing warning devices are activated. Second and subsequent violations will incur a \$1000 fine. This type of violation requires an appearance in court and may result in a 6 month suspension of a driver's license if repeat offenses are committed.