



TIPS FOR

PASSENGER AND COMMUTER RAIL USERS

Passenger/Commuter rail trains are an integral part of today's society. Whether you are travelling across Canada or commuting to and from a major urban centre, passenger/commuter rail is one of the safest, more reliable, quickest and environmentally responsible modes of travel available. Every day, thousands of people across Canada climb aboard passenger/commuter trains.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Passenger trains provide services across Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific whereas commuter trains provide an alternative service, other than the automobile or bus, to people travelling to and from major urban centres. In some cases, passenger/commuter trains interact with each other at the same station.

Some commuter trains run on their own designated track while others share the tracks with passenger and freight train traffic. As a user of either a passenger or commuter train, you should become familiar with some basic facts and safety tips.

FACTS ABOUT PASSENGER/COMMUTER RAIL TRAINS

- Trains can travel at speeds of up to 160 km/h.
- From a vehicle or standing at street level, it is difficult to judge the actual distance and speed of a train. They are a lot closer and travel a lot faster than they seem.
- Passenger/Commuter trains travel faster and are lighter than freight trains and although they may stop more quickly, it can still take up to two kilometres or 18 football fields to come to a complete stop.
- Passenger/Commuter rail trains run more frequently than freight trains. They often operate on adjacent tracks at the same time in either direction.
- Some commuter trains have a locomotive at one end and a cab car on the other. The cab car allows the train to operate in the opposite direction of the locomotive without turning around. Other commuter trains have identical cars on either end and they too, can be operated in either direction.

FACTS ABOUT RAIL CROSSINGS

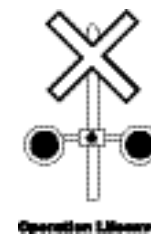
- Highway/railway crossings may be equipped with warning devices such as lights, bells and gates. Some crossings are only equipped with a railway crossing sign also known as a "crossbuck".
- Freight, passenger and commuter trains often share the same crossings.
- Signs may or may not exist at private crossings, especially in rural areas.
- Some commuter rail services may have unique traffic control devices such as:
 - gates across the lanes of the intersection in both directions
 - median barriers
 - pedestrian gates

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AT STATION PLATFORMS

- Most platforms have a safety line painted parallel to the edge. Stand well back of the safety line or platform edge.
- Keep children in sight and close to you.
- Be careful of any gaps that may exist between the platform and the train while boarding.
- ALWAYS enter or exit a station platform at designated areas.
- NEVER cross in front of or behind a stopped train. It is both dangerous and unlawful.
- Always obey railway crossing warning signs and signals.
- In multi-track areas, be vigilant to other train movements on other tracks in either direction.

Contact **Operation Lifesaver** or your provincial safety council/league to schedule a free highway/railway safety presentation. Certified Presenters are available to speak to students in schools and driver training classes, youth and community groups, company safety programs and the general public. In addition, specialized presentations are available for educators, emergency responders, professional drivers and recreational groups.

Please also consider joining the many volunteers across the country trained to deliver Operation Lifesaver's safety message. For more information on how you can become an Operation Lifesaver Presenter, call Operation Lifesaver or your provincial safety council/league.



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