



Tips for Farm Machinery Operators

Operation Lifesaver and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA)

remind farm machinery operators to stay alert where field and farmstead access roads cross train tracks. These farm crossings are largely passive (no warning lights, bells, gates or signs) and represent special hazards for train crews and farm machinery operators. Operation Lifesaver and the CFA urge all farmers, ranchers and their employees who must use farm crossings to remember: **Field to Field—YIELD TO TRAINS!**

Stopping Safely at Farm Crossings

- › Stop no closer than 5 metres from the nearest rail. Allow extra distance for front-mounted buckets and chemical tanks on farm tractors.



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- › To better hear the train, open machinery cab windows, turn off radios and fans, and remove headsets.
- › Make sure that the farm machinery is properly lined up with the farm crossing to ensure safe passage over the train tracks.
- › While stopped, look carefully in each direction for approaching trains, moving head and eyes to see around obstructions such as mirrors, windshield pillars and implements.
- › Winter conditions can create additional hazards: snow can muffle the sound of an approaching train. Make sure that equipment does not slide onto the crossing when snow and ice cover the road.

Resuming Travel

- › Before resuming, make sure there is enough room on the other side of the train track or tracks to fully clear without stopping.
- › Make sure that any towed equipment does not become unhitched while crossing.
- › Watch wagons and other equipment during the crossing so that no loaded materials become dislodged and fall onto the train tracks.

Be Aware of Special Situations

Some farm equipment is uniquely designed for fieldwork and does not transport well across farm crossings.

- › Do not attempt a crossing with low-slung equipment that can become lodged on “humped” crossings.
- › When operating new farm machinery over farm crossings for the first time, make sure that heavier and wider equipment can be safely moved over the crossing.
- › Do not attempt to cross with equipment other than what the crossing was designed to accommodate. Contact the railway for assistance with non-standard equipment.
- › Always secure hitch pins with a pin key to prevent them from becoming dislodged when moving across rough farm crossings.
- › Ensure that farm tractors towing heavily loaded tanks and wagons will fully clear the crossing quickly and safely.
- › Take extra care to have each pair of implement wheels cross the tracks straight on, otherwise heavily loaded wagons and tanks could tip from the shifts in weight.
- › If for any reason you get stuck on the track, get out of the equipment and away from the track.

- › Check any signposts or signal housings at the crossing for emergency notification information.
- › Call 911 or the local emergency number immediately and provide the dispatcher with the crossing location, the railway subdivision and mileage, and all identifiable landmarks. Do not hang up the phone unless instructed to do so.
- › If you frequently use a farm crossing, have the following information handy in case of an emergency: the location (railway, subdivision and mileage), railway contact, and emergency phone number of the railway.

RAILWAY CONTACT/EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Canadian National Railway: 1-800-465-9239

Canadian Pacific Railway: 1-800-716-9132

Other: _____

For additional railway safety information, please visit:

- › **Website:** www.operationlifesaver.ca
- › **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/oplifesaver
- › **Twitter:** www.twitter.com/oplifesaver

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