



# Rail Safety Tips for Emergency Responders

It takes teamwork to deal with any incident on railway tracks and property, and emergency responders play an essential role on the front line. Follow these tips to ensure your team stays safe—it could save lives.



## COMMUNICATE WITH THE RAILWAYS

Make sure you notify all relevant railway companies before approaching any incident near their tracks or property. Share the exact location of the incident (such as the milepost, road name and town) with the railway. Railway emergency numbers and mileposts are often posted behind crossbucks at crossings, or on signal houses. Ensure all rail traffic is stopped in the area. When the incident response is complete and personnel have been cleared, inform the railway company so they can resume operations.



## PROCEED WITH CAUTION

Park emergency vehicles no closer than 5 metres from the nearest rail. Don't walk directly on the tracks to get to the incident, or go between or underneath railway cars. Stay alert, look both ways and listen for trains before approaching or crossing tracks—even after you've contacted the railway company to stop rail traffic.



## ENSURE YOU'RE VISIBLE

After notifying the railway and confirming that all rail traffic is stopped, place a red flare between the rails at least 2.5 kilometres from the incident in both directions. This will alert approaching trains that you are there.



## CONTACT THE TRAIN CREW

Try to contact the train crew to determine their situation, but be aware that they may be suffering from injuries or shock.



## PLAN AHEAD

Know which railway companies operate in your community and work with them to come up with an effective emergency response procedure. Make sure you know the appropriate protocol for handling railway incidents, and have emergency numbers for all railways and emergency dispatchers on hand.

### REMEMBER:

- Slow down, turn off sirens and other devices, and roll down your window to listen for trains when approaching railway crossings. Look both ways before continuing on.
- Plan emergency response routes that avoid railway crossings whenever possible.