



Rail Safety Tips for Municipal Maintenance Workers

Whether you operate a snowplow, a road grader or do other work maintaining municipal infrastructure, working in proximity to railway crossings and tracks can be incredibly risky if you don't know your rail safety rules. Follow these important tips to help you stay safe, and share them with your colleagues—it could save lives.



BE PREPARED TO STOP AT ALL RAILWAY CROSSINGS

Slow down and be prepared to stop at all railway crossings. When approaching a crossing, open your window and turn off your fan and audio equipment so you can better hear oncoming trains. If a train is coming, stop behind any gates or stop lines, or no closer than 5 metres from the nearest rail.



HAVE A CLEAR VIEW OF THE TRACKS

Don't proceed through a railway crossing unless you have a clear view of the tracks and are sure no trains are approaching in either direction, on any track—especially at crossings with no flashing lights, bell or gates. Know how long your vehicle is and be aware of the amount of space on the other side of the crossing. To avoid stalling on the tracks, always cross in low gear without shifting. If you're driving a snowplow or road grader, be sure to raise the blade or other attachments high enough to clear the tracks.



CONTACT THE RAILWAY BEFORE STARTING WORK

Never park your equipment on or walk along railway tracks. If maintenance work needs to be done within eight metres of the tracks or near a crossing, you need permission from the railway to ensure safety and compliance with regulations. Always contact the railway **before** performing work in proximity to a rail crossing or tracks.



LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE IF IT STALLS OR GETS STUCK

If your equipment stalls or gets struck at a crossing, get out immediately and move at least 30 metres away from the tracks. Contact the railway to let them know there is a vehicle on the tracks, or call 911. If your equipment hits a rail, signage or signal equipment, report it immediately to the railway. Most rail companies post their emergency numbers at crossings—either behind the crossbuck or on the signal house.

REMEMBER:

- Laws, regulations and policies governing work around train tracks vary by province and by railway—know the ones that apply to you, and make sure you're in compliance at all times.
- Anytime is train time. Crossing warning signals sometimes activate just 20 seconds before a train arrives. A large truck can take 18 seconds to clear the tracks from a standing start. So if you're working near a railway crossing, keep unnecessary equipment off the tracks, stay alert and stay safe!
- Report any dangerous conditions at railway crossings directly to the railway company or by calling 911.

