



Rail Safety Tips for Off-road Vehicle Operators

Driving an ATV, snowmobile or other recreational vehicle is a great way to enjoy Canada's outdoors —if you do it safely. But recreational vehicles and railway tracks aren't a good combination. Be sure to follow these tips—they could save your life.



OperationLifesaver.ca
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USE DESIGNATED RAILWAY CROSSINGS

Always cross railway tracks at designated crossings at a 90-degree angle, or as close to it as possible. Trying to cross tracks at any other place could be deadly. Remember, trains can come at any time, from either direction. Look for signs along trails warning that you are approaching a railway crossing.



STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN FOR TRAINS

When approaching a designated crossing, slow down, look both ways and listen for approaching trains; proceed only if you are sure it is safe to do so. If a train is approaching, or if railway warning signals are activated, stop behind any gates or stop lines, or no closer than 5 metres from the closest rail, and wait for the train to pass. Cross only after the warning signals have ceased and are certain no other trains are approaching, from either direction, and on any track.



STAY OFF THE TRACKS

Trespassing on railway property is both dangerous and illegal. Use approved trails, not railway tracks. Don't drive through train tunnels or bridges—trains are wider than rails, which leaves little or no room for you and your vehicle if a train does come along.



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Even riding next to train tracks poses a danger, so keep clear. Your helmet and the noise from your engine or the wind can make it hard to hear when a train is approaching. In winter, the snow dust created by a passing train can also severely reduce your visibility.



LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE IF IT STALLS OR GETS STUCK

Your ATV or snowmobile can break down at any time—and if it happens on railway tracks, it could be deadly. If this happens, get off immediately and move to a safe distance (at least 30 metres away from the tracks). Contact the railway company immediately and let them know there is vehicle on the tracks. Railway companies post their emergency numbers and crossing locations on a blue sign under the crossbuck or near the crossing. This information may also be displayed on a nearby signal house. If you don't see a railway emergency number, call 911.

REMEMBER:

- Take extra care at night and in winter. Snowy or nighttime conditions can reduce visibility, making it hard to see passing trains or railway crossings.
- Model the right behaviour by following rail safety rules. Younger or inexperienced riders learn by example.

Know the Signs and Signals

FLASHING RED LIGHTS

STOP when flashing. DO NOT proceed until the lights stop flashing. If the lights begin flashing after you start crossing the tracks, keep going.

CROSSBUCK

YIELD if a train is approaching. Trains always have the right-of-way.

LOWERING GATES AND FLASHING RED LIGHTS

A train is approaching (even if you don't see it yet). DO NOT proceed until the lights turn off and the gates go up. It's illegal and dangerous to go around lowered gates.

MULTIPLE TRACKS

Multiple tracks are present. Multiple tracks may mean multiple trains. Wait until you can see clearly down the tracks in both directions before proceeding.



PAVEMENT MARKINGS

A large "X" and a wide white line on the road mean you're approaching a railway crossing. Stay behind the white stop line while waiting for a train to pass. No stop line? Stop at least 5 metres from the nearest rail.

LOW GROUND CLEARANCE CROSSING

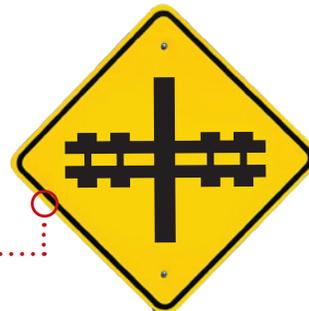
Raised crossing ahead. If you drive anything low to the ground — like a bus, truck, sports car or trailer — you're at risk of getting hung up on the tracks. DO NOT proceed until you know your vehicle will clear the tracks.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SIGN (ENS)

This is the first phone number to call if a vehicle is stuck or stalls on the tracks (this number may also be found on the signal house). You can also dial it to report people, vehicles or debris on the tracks, as well as damaged signs or signals, or obstructed views. The mile post and subdivision listed on the sign will help the railway to identify your location.

ADVANCE WARNING

Slow down, look, listen, and BE PREPARED TO STOP. Typically, this is the first sign you see when approaching a railway crossing.



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