



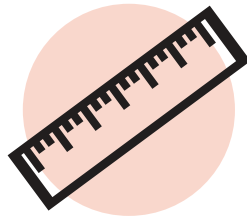
Rail Safety Tips for Photographers and the Media

Capturing the “perfect shot” or getting the footage you need for your story isn’t worth risking your life. Follow these simple tips to safely take railway photos or videos.



STAY OFF RAILWAY TRACKS AND PROPERTY

Railway tracks, yards and rights of way are private property. If you are caught trespassing on them, you could be fined up to \$50,000. But it isn’t just illegal to trespass on railway property—it’s extremely dangerous. Trains travel up to 160 km/h and can come at any time, from either direction, and on any track. So it’s essential that you obtain permission from a railway before photographing or shooting video on their property.



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Always stay a safe distance from tracks and trains when taking photographs or filming footage. Use a zoom lens so you can keep out of harm’s way. If you do have permission from a railway company to shoot on or near their property, stay alert and be aware that you can be distracted by noise around you.



FIND AN ALTERNATE SHOOT LOCATION

If you do not have explicit permission from a railway company to shoot on their property, find an alternate location so you don’t endanger yourself, your crew, or your subjects. Shoot from public property near a railway, where you can capture the tracks and trains from a safe distance. You can also use a railway museum as your location, or contact a railway company for existing images or B-roll to use.

REMEMBER:

- An optical illusion makes it hard to determine a train’s distance from you, or its speed. It can also take a train up to 2 kilometres to stop—the length of 18 football fields.
- You can never be certain that railway tracks are abandoned or inactive. Even if they are, it is illegal to use them as a location without explicit permission from the railway company.
- Other photographers will mimic your photos and videos, so lead by example. If you’re posting photos or footage that was taken safely, use a disclaimer such as: “Permission from the railway company was granted and rail traffic was stopped prior to the use of this location” or “This photo was taken on public property adjacent to the railway tracks.”

