



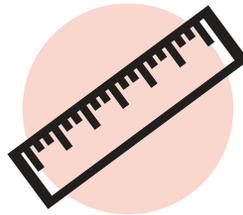
Rail Safety Tips for Photographers and the Media

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—it could save your life.



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. If you need to photograph or shoot video on railway property, get permission first.



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Always stay a safe distance from railway property when taking photographs or filming footage. Use a zoom lens so you can keep off tracks and out of harm’s way if a train does come. If you do have permission from the 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 the railway company to shoot on their property, find an alternate location so you don’t endanger yourself or your subjects. Shoot from public property near a railway, where you can capture railway tracks and trains from a safe distance. Use a railway museum as your location, or contact the 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 posting photos or footage that was taken safely on tracks, use a disclaimer such as: “Permission from the railway company was granted and rail traffic was stopped prior the use of this location” or “This photo was taken on public property adjacent to the railway tracks.”

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

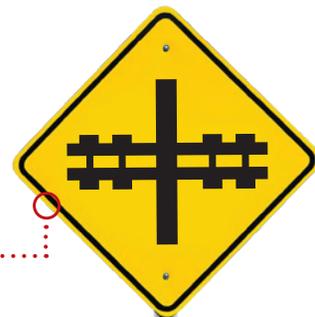
Raised crossing ahead. If you drive anything low to the ground — like a bus, truck, sports car or trailer — you're at risk of getting hung up on the tracks. DO NOT proceed until you know your vehicle will clear the tracks.

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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