

# RAILROAD CROSSING SAFETY FOR MOTORISTS

## Always Expect a Train

As motorists we need to:

- Be prepared to stop at the crossing
- Slow down, look both ways, and listen
- Understand the signs and warning devices
- Check that you have enough room on the other side of the tracks for your vehicle to cross safely
- Never race a train
- Never stop on tracks



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

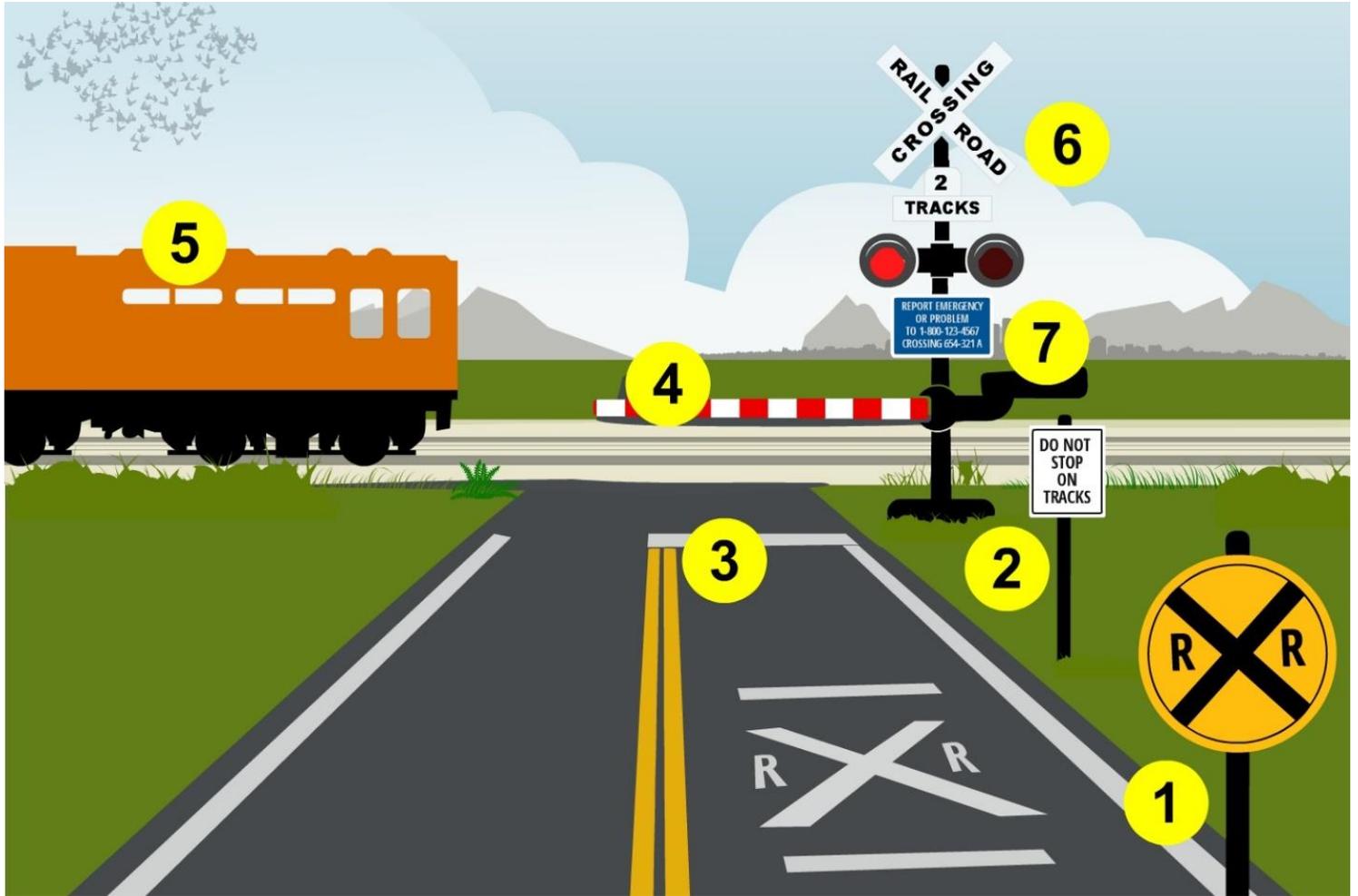
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1

Slow down, look both ways for an approaching train, and be prepared to stop; trains always have the right of way. This advance warning sign lets you know you are approaching railroad tracks. You will also often see pavement markings warning you of an upcoming railroad crossing.

2

Never stop on the tracks—keep moving once you have entered the crossing and never shift gears on the tracks. Do not enter a railroad crossing unless you are sure you can clear the crossing completely. Not all crossings will have this sign, regardless, never stop on the tracks.

3

You must come to a full stop at least 15 feet from the nearest rail if any of the following are present: -Flashing red lights are activated. -A crossing gate is lowered. -A flagman signals you to stop. -A stop sign is posted. -A train is clearly visible or you hear the whistle of a train.

4

Stop—it is illegal to go around a lowered crossing gate or ignore signs or flashing lights posted at a railroad crossing. **Be aware**—not all crossings have gates and/or flashing lights. This does NOT mean the railroad is not in use. Regardless of signage, always proceed through a crossing with caution.

5

Do not assume there is only one train or use previous experience to guess when a train is coming. Trains can come from either direction at any time. Wait for the gates to be fully raised and the lights to stop flashing before entering the crossing.

6

Stop, look both ways, and listen. This crossbuck sign marks where the railroad tracks are located. Often a crossbuck will be accompanied by a sign that will tell you how many tracks are at the crossing. If there is more than one track, always look for a second train.

7

If your vehicle stalls or is stuck on the crossing, move away from the tracks and your car at a 45° angle. Call the number on the Emergency Notification System (ENS) sign (or 911 if sign is not visible) for help.

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## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

### Put your railroad crossing safety knowledge to the test!

1. When approaching a railroad crossing, what 3 things should you always do?
  - a. Turn up your music, increase your speed, and ignore posted signs
  - b. Slow down, look both ways, and be prepared to stop
  - c. Slow down, only look directly in front of you, and be prepared to stop
  - d. Speed up and ignore posted signs
  
2. If you see a backup of car traffic on the other side of track and you know your car will not fully make it across the tracks you should...
  - a. Pull onto the track and wait patiently
  - b. Pull into the left lane and overtake the line of traffic
  - c. Wait patiently until the traffic has moved and only cross the tracks when you can be sure there is room for your car on the other side
  - d. Get out of your car and start yelling at the cars in front of you
  
3. What signs can you expect to see when approaching a railroad crossing?
  - a. An Emergency Notification System (ENS) sign
  - b. An advanced railroad warning sign
  - c. A crossbuck
  - d. All of the above
  
4. When must you come to a full stop at a railroad crossing?
  - a. When you hear a the whistle of a train
  - b. When the lights are flashing and the gate is being lowered
  - c. When a flagman signals you to stop
  - d. All of the above
  
5. Where would you find information about how many tracks are at the crossing?
  - a. Underneath the crossbuck
  - b. On the Emergency Notification System sign
  - c. On the pavement markings
  - d. On the rail of the railroad track

Answers: 1. B, 2. C, 3. D, 4. D, 5. A



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