

PASSIVE RAILROAD CROSSINGS

Always Expect a Train

At passive railroad crossings we need to:

- Be extra cautious as passive crossings do not have flashing lights and gates
- Be prepared to stop at the crossing
- Slow down, look both ways, and listen
- Understand the signs
- Never race a train
- Never stop on tracks



U.S. Department
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**Federal Railroad
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| <p>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.</p> | <p>5 Slow down, look both ways, and be prepared to stop. This crossbuck sign marks where the railroad tracks are located and means you must yield to any approaching trains. Often a crossbuck is accompanied by a yield sign. Alternatively, you may see a Stop sign. Always look both ways before crossing the tracks.</p> |
| <p>2 Be especially alert at passive crossings, since they do not have flashing lights and gates. Slow down, look both ways, and listen. Stop at least 15 feet from the nearest rail if a train is clearly visible or you hear the train's whistle.</p> | <p>6 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.</p> |
| <p>3 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.</p> | <p>7 Be especially alert at passive crossings, since they do not have flashing lights and gates. Before you cross, stop, look both ways, and listen. Do not let yourself be distracted by friends, phones, or music.</p> |
| <p>4 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. Do not proceed until you can be certain a train isn't approaching.</p> | |



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TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Put your railroad crossing safety knowledge to the test!

1. You must be especially alert at passive railroad crossings because they don't have _____
 - a. Advance Warning signs
 - b. Stop signs and/or Yield signs
 - c. Gates and flashing lights
 - d. Trees

2. Which of the following accurately describes an advance warning sign for a railroad crossing?
 - a. A yellow circular sign with a black X and the letters "RR"
 - b. A red circular sign with the letters "RR"
 - c. A yellow rectangular sign with a white X and the letters "RR"
 - d. A red circular sign with the words "RR Ahead"

3. What is one thing you should NEVER do when crossing railroad tracks
 - a. Shift gears
 - b. Stop
 - c. Make a U-turn
 - d. a, b, and c are correct

4. You can use prior knowledge and experience to guess when a train is coming
 - a. True
 - b. False

5. Where can you find the number to contact the railroad company directly?
 - a. On the pavement markings
 - b. In your pocket
 - c. Engraved on the rail
 - d. On the blue Emergency Notification System sign

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



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