



U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS/SAFETY CENTER

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Resource Document Pedestrian Safety *Railroad Crossing*

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Narrative:

Since 2000, there have been 10 train accidents at crossings involving Soldiers, on foot and in vehicles, both on-and-off-duty. Eight resulted in either injury or fatality to a Soldier: Five Soldiers were fatally injured, three sustained non-fatal injuries.

For calendar year 2011, there were 11,066 accidents or incidents of all types involving trains nationwide, resulting in 712 fatalities, according to the Office of Safety Analysis at the Federal Railroad Administration.

The overall trend for 2011 was down, according to Operation Lifesaver: 428 trespass-related pedestrian deaths and 346 trespass injuries.

OLI reminds pedestrians the only safe place to cross tracks is at a designated public crossing with either a crossbuck, flashing red lights or a gate.

Key Messages:

- Ten Soldiers died in accidents at train crossings since 2000.
- The only safe place to cross tracks is at a designated public crossing with either a crossbuck, flashing red lights or a gate.
- While the majority of accidents involved motor vehicles, pedestrians face threats when walking near railroad tracks.
- Never try to 'beat the train' at a crossing on foot or in a vehicle.

Talking points:

- A train needs up to a mile to stop. Just because the train operator sees you doesn't mean there's time for the train to stop before it hits you.
- Railroad tracks are private property.
- Some rail cars extend out to 3 feet to each side.
- A person or a vehicle is struck by a train about every three hours in the United States, according to Operation Lifesaver.

Tips:

- Don't think just because a locomotive engineer sees you that a train can be stopped in time, because, depending on size, it may require a mile or more to stop.
- Never wear earphones or any devices that impairs your ability to hear what's happening around you or approaching you.
- Cross only at designated crossings.

Historical Reference:

<https://safety.army.mil/>

<http://www.fra.dot.gov/>

<http://oli.org/>

Statistics:

- Since 2000, there have been 10 train accidents at crossings involving Soldiers, on foot and in vehicles, both on-and off-duty. Eight resulted in either injury or fatality to a Soldier: Five Soldiers were fatally injured, three sustained non-fatal injuries.
- For calendar year 2011, there were 11,066 accidents or incidents of all types involving trains nationwide, resulting in 712 fatalities, according to the office of safety analysis at the Federal Railroad Administration.
- While the majority of accidents involved motor vehicles, pedestrians face threats when walking near railroad tracks and need to concentrate on being safe.
- One train/pedestrian accident is one too many, but the overall trend for 2011 was down, according to Operation Lifesaver: 428 trespass-related pedestrian deaths last year (down 1.4 percent) and 346 trespass injuries (down 10.8 percent).
- A person or a vehicle is struck by a train about every three hours in the United States, according to Operation Lifesaver.

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