



**Illinois Rail Safety Week
September 14th – 20th**



Trains are part of everyday life. Don't be confused by people who tell you that rust on the tracks means they're out-of-use. They're made of steel—it rusts! See if you can tell rusty myths from steely reality. Are you up to the challenge? Answer these questions, true or false:



1. Walking on railroad tracks, or the rights-of-way on either side of them, is illegal.

TRUE. It can take a mile or more to stop a train. That's 18 football fields! Even if the locomotive engineer spots you ahead, he cannot swerve or stop the train in time to avoid a collision.



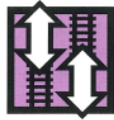
2. You will be safe if you do not walk between the rails.

FALSE. Trains overhang the tracks by at least 3 feet in both directions. Loose straps hanging from freight cars may extend much further.



3. It is safe to cross the tracks anywhere as long as you can see 1/4 mile in each direction.

FALSE. The only safe place to cross is at a designated public crossing with a crossbuck, flashing red lights or a gate. If you cross at any other place, you are trespassing and can be ticketed or fined.



4. A locomotive is not always at the front of a train.

TRUE. Trains are sometimes pushed by locomotives instead of being pulled. Trains can move in either direction at any time—particularly commuter and light rail passenger trains.



5. It is safe to cross the tracks just as soon as the last car of a train passes the crossing.

FALSE. Your view of a second train might be blocked by the first. Wait after the first train passes until you can see clearly in both directions.



6. As a pedestrian, it is safe to ignore the flashing red lights at the crossing.

FALSE. Flashing red lights signal the approach of a train. Never walk past flashing lights or around lowered gates at a crossing. Wait until the lights have stopped flashing and the gate is up.



7. Trains are noisy. You will have plenty of time to step out of the train's path when you hear a train coming.

FALSE. Modern trains are quieter than ever, with no telltale "clickety-clack." An approaching train may be closer and moving faster than it appears.



8. Playing on rail equipment, tracks or railcars is forbidden.

TRUE. If you are in the rail yard or on railroad property uninvited, you are trespassing and subject to arrest and prosecution. Worse, you could lose your life.



9. Crossing tracks with a baby stroller, in a wheelchair, or on other narrow wheels requires caution and extra attention.

TRUE. Narrow wheels can get caught at crossings. If possible, walk - don't roll - across. If you are in a wheelchair, consider getting assistance. Always cross at a 90-degree angle.



FIND A SAFER PLACE

Railroad tracks, trestles, yards and equipment are private property. Never walk, jog, fish or hunt from railroad tracks. If you are found on this property, you can be arrested or fined.



CROSSBUCK SIGN

This sign tells you trains run at this location. Cross tracks at the crossbuck sign only, not anywhere along the tracks.



USE ONLY DESIGNATED CROSSINGS

The only legal and safe place to cross railroad tracks is at a designated public crossing with a crossbuck, flashing red lights or a gate. Crossing at any other location is illegal.

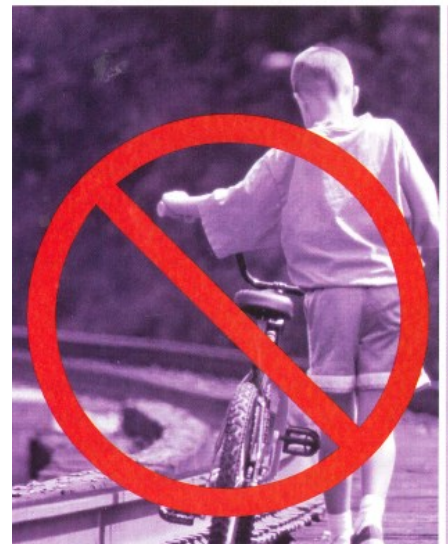


IF YOU SEE A TRAIN COMING, WAIT!

If you see flashing lights or a lowering gate, it means a train is approaching. Do not proceed until the gates go completely up and the lights go off. It is illegal to go around lowered gates.

Walking or playing on railroad tracks or the right-of-way on either side of the tracks is trespassing. It is illegal and can be deadly.

PROVIDED IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY



FOR PEDESTRIANS

**Myths or Realities?
Pedestrian Safety
Around Tracks
& Trains.**





Warning Signs & Devices

Do you know the signs? Warning signs and devices tell drivers and pedestrians that the road crosses train tracks ahead. Watch for a train!



ADVANCE WARNING SIGN
This is usually the first sign you see when approaching a highway-rail grade crossing. Slow down, look and listen! Be prepared to stop if a train is approaching.



PAVEMENT MARKINGS
An RXR and a Stop Line may be painted on a paved road approaching a crossing. Stay behind the Stop Line while waiting for a train to pass. No Stop Line? Wait at least 15 feet from the nearest rail.



CROSSBUCK SIGN
This sign tells drivers to YIELD if a train is approaching. At multiple tracks, the number will be shown. Watch for another train coming from either direction on any track.



FLASHING RED LIGHT SIGNALS
You must STOP when these signals begin to flash and may not proceed until it is safe to do so.



GATES AND FLASHING RED LIGHTS
If you see flashing lights or a lowering gate, it means a train is approaching. Do not proceed until the gates go completely up and the lights go off. It is illegal to go around lowered gates.

Tips for Staying Safe Around Tracks & Trains

LOOK BOTH WAYS!
Always expect a train. Trains can run on any track, at any time, in either direction. After a train passes, look both ways before proceeding.

DON'T GET STUCK ON THE TRACK!
Before you cross, be sure there is room on the other side to completely clear the tracks. Trains overhang the tracks by at least 3 feet on each side. For safety, leave at least 15 feet between the rear of your vehicle and the nearest rail. Do not shift gears while crossing.

GET OUT! GET AWAY!
If your vehicle stalls at a crossing, get everyone out and far away immediately, even if you do not see a train. Call the emergency notification number posted on or near the crossing or notify local law enforcement.

IF YOU SEE A TRAIN COMING, WAIT!
Don't be tempted to try to beat a train. An approaching train may be closer and traveling faster than it appears.

TRAINS CANNOT STOP QUICKLY.
The average freight train traveling 55 miles per hour takes a mile or more to stop. That's 18 football fields. If the locomotive engineer can see you, it's too late to stop the train.

WATCH FOR VEHICLES THAT MUST STOP AT RAILROAD CROSSINGS.
Most states require school buses, commercial buses and trucks carrying hazardous materials to stop at every highway-rail grade crossing. (State laws vary.)

IF YOU SEE A PROBLEM AT A CROSSING.
Report any problem - stalled vehicle on the tracks, damaged sign, obstructed view, signal malfunction - to the railroad immediately. Call the emergency notification number posted on or near the crossing, or notify local law enforcement.

You Can Help Operation Lifesaver Save Lives

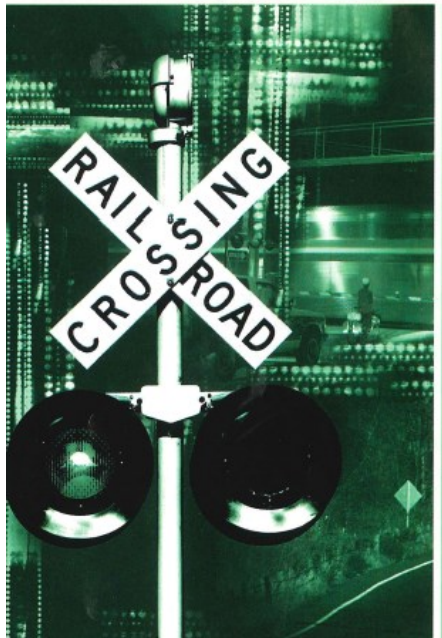
Please help your family members and friends make safe decisions around tracks and trains.

SCHEDULE A PRESENTATION.
It's FREE! Across the nation certified Operation Lifesaver Presenters are available to speak to student drivers, professional truck and bus drivers, school bus operators, general motorists, law enforcement, emergency responders and community groups.

VOLUNTEER!
Would you like to help deliver Operation Lifesaver's safety message in your community? Find out about becoming trained as an Operation Lifesaver Presenter or Associate.

VISIT
Visit www.oli.org or call Operation Lifesaver, Inc., at 1-800-537-6224 to contact your State Coordinator.

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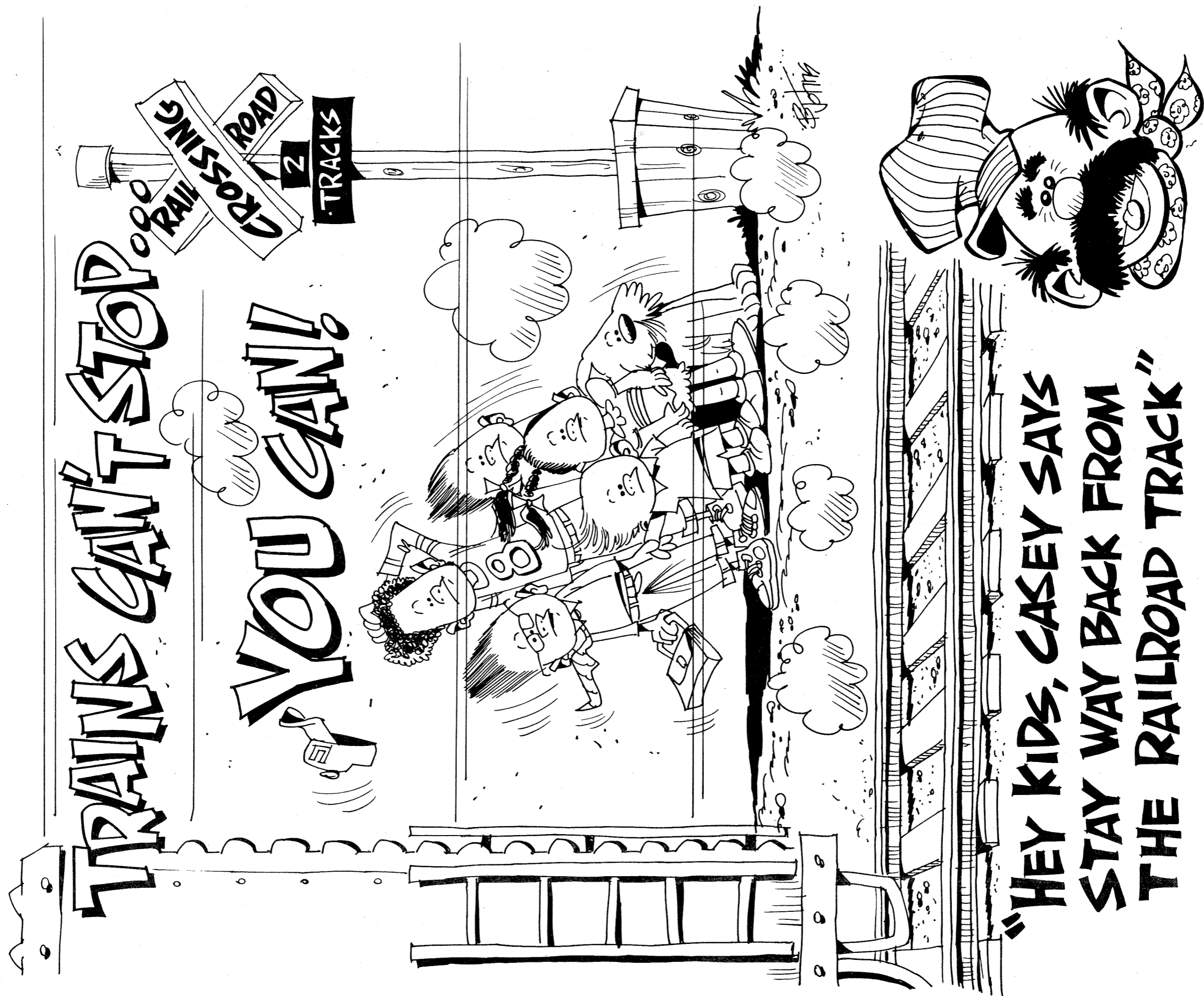


FOR ALL DRIVERS

Key Safety Tips at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings



Color Me Poster



**"HEY KIDS, CASEY SAYS
STAY WAY BACK FROM
THE RAILROAD TRACK"**

OPERATION LIFESAVER