

ESSENTIAL CALIFORNIA SAFETY TIPS

Use and share these train, railroad, and grade-crossing safety tips every time you're near tracks.

1 Always expect a train.

- Trains are quieter and faster than you think.
- They can run on any track, at any time, from either direction, not just on a "schedule."

2 Never walk on or beside railroad tracks.

- It's illegal and extremely dangerous to be on or beside railroad tracks.
- Tracks, bridges, and tunnels are for trains only.

3 Only cross at designated public crossings.

- Cross only where you see a crossbuck, flashing red lights, or a gate.
- Crossing anywhere else is trespassing and illegal.

4 Never try to beat a train.

- Do not drive or walk around lowered gates or flashing lights.
- Wait until lights stop flashing and gates are fully raised.

5 Look clearly in both directions before crossing.

- Multiple tracks can mean multiple trains.

6 Stay off railroad bridges, trestles, and out of tunnels.

- There is only room for the train.
- There is no safe place for pedestrians in these areas.

7 Trains always have the right of way.

- Trains have the right of way 100% of the time over cars, emergency vehicles, law enforcement, cyclists, and pedestrians.

8 Stay outside of the danger zone.

- Trains can extend three feet or more beyond the steel rail.
- Keep at least 15 feet from the tracks to stay safe.

9 Never take photos or videos on tracks.

- It's dangerous and illegal.
- Optical illusions make it hard to judge a train's speed and distance.
- Trains cannot stop quickly, by the time an engineer sees you, it may already be too late.

10 Stay alert. Avoid distractions.

- No texting, no headphones, no scrolling near tracks.
- No distractions that would prevent you from hearing an approaching train.

11 At a multiple track crossing, waiting for a train to pass.

- Watch out for a second train on the other tracks, approaching from either direction.

12 Never stop on the tracks.

- Only enter a crossing if you're sure you can completely clear it without stopping.
- Never queue up on the tracks while waiting for traffic ahead of you to move.

13 If your vehicle stalls on the tracks, get out immediately.

- Get out and move away from the tracks right away, even if you don't see a train.
- Locate the nearby blue and white Emergency Notification System sign and call the number on the sign. Can't find the sign? Call 911.