



**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.

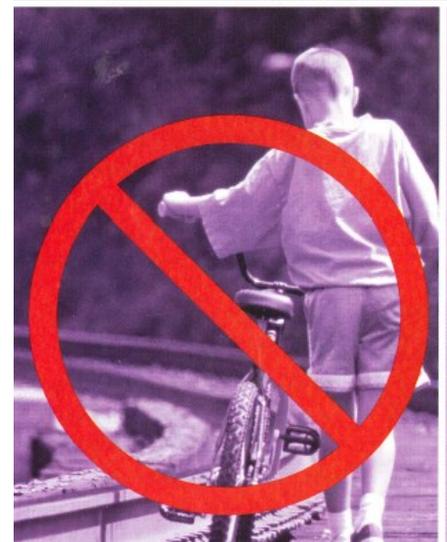


**IF YOU SEE A TRAIN COMING, WAIT!**

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.**

