



Driving on the Right Side of the Road Railroad Crossings



JUST THE FACTS

- In a collision with a train, you are 40 times more likely to be killed than if you were in a collision with another car.¹
- A train hits someone in America every 115 minutes.²
- Nearly 2,000 Americans are killed and injured at railway crossings each year.³
- The average train weighs 12 million pounds, outweighing a car about 4,000 to 1.⁴
- A train traveling at 50 mph, pulling 100 cars, takes one mile to stop.⁵

IT'S THE LAW

- Texas law requires motorists to yield the right of way to trains.⁶
- It is against the law to cross tracks if a train is visible or to drive around gates that have been lowered at a railroad crossing.⁷
- If the gates are down and no train is coming, the road is closed.
- School/transit buses and trucks carrying hazardous materials must come to a complete stop at all railroad crossings.⁸

KEEP IT SAFE

- Reduce speed when approaching railroad crossings and look both ways. Listen for the sound of a train.⁹
- Turn down your stereo and listen for a train.¹⁰
- If red lights are flashing or if the crossing arms have been lowered, stop.¹¹
- Be sure all tracks are clear before crossing – there may be more than one set of tracks.¹²
- Do not play along railroad tracks.
- Never pass another vehicle within 100 feet of a railroad crossing.¹³
- Not all railroad crossings are marked with gates or flashing signals – this is especially true in rural areas.
- Be careful not to rear-end vehicles, such as school buses, that stop before crossing the tracks even when the gates are not down.

What Other Safety Tips Can You Suggest?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- http://fcs.tamu.edu/safety/passenger_safety/youth_traffic_safety.php

¹ Texas Department of Transportation, *Safety Tips – Additional Driving Tips*, Retrieved on August 31, 2012 from <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/safety/tips/other.htm> (hereinafter referred to as *TxDOT Additional Driving Tips*).

² Texas Department of Insurance, *Railroad Crossing Safety FactSheet*, Retrieved on September 29, 2011 from <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/pubs/videoresource/fsrailroadcross.pdf> (hereinafter referred to as *TxDOT Railroad Crossing Safety FactSheet*).

³ [See](#) *TxDOT Railroad Crossing Safety FactSheet* – endnote 2

⁴ [See](#) *TxDOT Railroad Crossing Safety FactSheet* – endnote 2

⁵ [See](#) *TxDOT Railroad Crossing Safety FactSheet* – endnote 2

⁶ Texas Transp. Code § 545.251.

⁷ Texas Transp. Code § 545.251.

⁸ Texas Transp. Code §§ 545.253-545.254.

⁹ [See](#) *TxDOT Additional Driving Tips* – endnote 1

¹⁰ [See](#) *TxDOT Additional Driving Tips* – endnote 1

¹¹ [See](#) *TxDOT Additional Driving Tips* – endnote 1

¹² [See](#) *TxDOT Additional Driving Tips* – endnote 1

¹³ [See](#) *TxDOT Railroad Crossing Safety FactSheet* – endnote 2