



Company Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 423: Railroad Crossing Safety

Introduction: As traffic on our roadways increases, so to do the frequency of accident involving vehicles with trains. Although it is increasingly common in urban areas for roadways to be engineered to prevent collisions between vehicle traffic and rail traffic, there are still many roadway/railroad crossings across the country that are not equipped to prevent vehicle and train collisions. Awareness, and use, of proper procedures at railroad crossings is a basic part of driver safety. Following are guidelines for driver safety at railroad crossings:

- **The circle shaped sign** pictured to the right provides a warning that you are approaching a railroad crossing. The sign will have a yellow background with black markings.
- **When warned** of an approaching railroad crossing, slow your vehicle and be prepared to stop.
- **A railroad crossing sign** will mark the location of a railroad crossing. A sign below may denote the number of track sets in the crossing. When you arrive at a railroad crossing, you must stop no closer than 15 feet from the nearest railroad track anytime you are driving a commercial passenger carrier, or when you observe any of the following:
 - * Flashing red lights
 - * Lowered crossing gate
 - * Ringing bells
 - * A flag person warning of an approaching train



RAILROAD WARNING SIGN



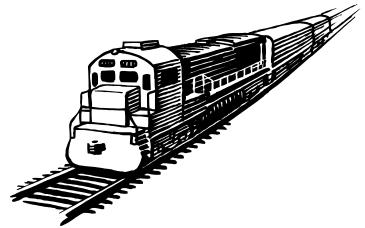
RAILROAD CROSSING SIGN

If any of the above conditions exist, or even if none of these conditions exist and a train is in sight, *stop your vehicle well clear of the tracks* and obey the laws regarding railroad crossings.

- **Do not cross** the tracks until all signals have stopped and the crossing gate is up all the way. Then visually ensure the way is clear before moving your vehicle.
- **Never drive around** or under a gate that is lowered. If stopped at a crossing which is not equipped with a gate, wait until the train is a sufficient distance down the track to visually ensure that there is no rail traffic coming from either direction before proceeding.
- **Always allow more time** and distance to clear railroad tracks when driving a large cargo vehicle.
- **If at a crossing** situation where there is vehicle traffic on the other side of the tracks in your lane, wait until there is sufficient room to clear the tracks, with the back of your vehicle at least 15 feet off the track, before crossing the tracks.

In addition to obeying the regulations above, the following rules will reduce your chances of becoming involved in a train wreck:

- * Expect a train on any track at any time.
- * Do not get trapped on a railroad crossing.
- * Get out of your vehicle and get clear of the vehicle and tracks immediately if it stalls on the tracks.
- * Always look for a second train in the other direction.
- * Never race a train. Never try to beat a train.
- * Watch for vehicles such as buses and fuel tankers which must stop at all railroad crossings.
- * When driving at night, be alert for railroad crossing warning signs that are not lighted.



Conclusion: Remember that a train in any situation has the right-of-way, and that any “battle” between a train and your vehicle *will* be won by the train. Do not needlessly risk your life or the lives of your passengers to save a minute or two at a railroad crossing. Obey the above guidelines for safety at railroad crossings.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures:

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

Foreman/Supervisor's Signature: _____
These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.