

## What is **Metro-North Railroad TRACKS Program?**

TRACKS stands for Together Railroads and Communities Keeping Safe. TRACKS is a community outreach program designed to educate the Metro-North community about rail safety.

At Metro-North Railroad, safety is of the utmost importance. We are dedicated to the safety of our customers, employees and the communities we serve.



**How can I get  
more information about  
Metro-North's community  
outreach program?**



**Email**

[MNRTRACKS@mnr.org](mailto:MNRTRACKS@mnr.org)



**Call**

914-461-0459



**Online**

[www.mta.info/mnr/tracks](http://www.mta.info/mnr/tracks)

**TRACKS**  
Together Railroads and Communities Keeping Safe

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# Grade Crossing Safety



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## Railroad Safety

### Rail Safety is Important

Whether riding the train, driving through a grade crossing or walking near tracks, train safety is important for all of us to learn in order for us to get to wherever we are going safely.

### Anytime is Train Time

Trains can run on any track, at any time, from either direction. Always expect a train. After a train passes, look both ways before proceeding.

### Trains Cannot Stop Quickly

Don't be tempted to try to beat a train. An approaching train may be closer and traveling faster than it appears. The average commuter train may take up to nine football fields to stop. If the engineer can see you, it is already too late to stop the train.

### Optical Illusion

Because of their size, trains appear to be much farther away and traveling much slower than their actual speed. Proceed forward only when it is safe to do so. Near crossings, be alert and pay attention to the signs and signals.



## Grade Crossing Safety

### What is a Grade Crossing?

A grade crossing is the point at which the train tracks intersect with a roadway.

### Passive Grade Crossings

Passive grade crossings do not have gates or flashing lights to signal that a train is coming. When approaching a passive grade crossing, slow down and be prepared to stop. Before crossing a passive grade crossing, be sure that a train isn't coming. If you see a train coming, wait until it passes and then cross.

### Active Grade Crossings

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

### Get out! Get Away!

If your vehicle stalls while crossing a track, get everyone out and far away immediately, even if you do not see a train. Call the emergency notification number posted near the crossing.

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**Do you know how to  
stay safe around  
grade crossings?  
Knowing the signs  
and how to behave  
could save your life.**

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## Safety Do's and Don'ts

**DO:** Stay in your lane and in the same gear when crossing train tracks

**DON'T:** Pass the car in front of you or shift gears

**DO:** Keep your attention on the road

**DON'T:** Let yourself become distracted (eating, texting or putting on make up)

**DO:** Stop behind the track or drive across the grade crossing

**DON'T:** Stop on the tracks, it is illegal and dangerous.

## WARNING SIGNS



### ADVANCE WARNING SIGN

Be prepared to stop if a train is approaching.



### PAVEMENT MARKINGS

Stay behind the stop line while waiting for a train to pass.



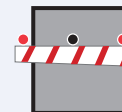
### CROSSBUCK SIGN

Yield if a train is approaching. If there are multiple tracks, the sign will show the number of tracks.



### FLASHING RED LIGHT SIGNALS

You must STOP when these signals begin to flash. Do not proceed until the lights stop flashing.



### GATES AND FLASHING RED LIGHTS

A lowering gate or flashing lights 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 or to cross while the lights are still flashing.