



Topic: Always Expect A Train

The rural railroad crossing is no place to have a lapse of attention. Trains can arrive on any track -- at any time -- from any direction.

At railroad crossings that have no gates or lights -- and are only marked by signs or pavement markings -- take extra caution. When approaching this type of crossing, either in the city or in a rural area, never assume that no train is coming.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) advises drivers to approach such crossings with extra caution because they might have to stop more than once to get a full view of the track in both directions. The view is often obscured by trees and brush. The first stop should be 15 feet from the track. Approach it cautiously.



More than half of all collisions at railroad crossings occur where there are active warning systems. In some cases there are multiple tracks. After one train passes, drivers begin to cross the track, failing to notice that a second train is coming from the opposite direction.