



don't cross me

survival strats on railroad tracks



1 always expect a train.

they can come from any direction, anytime—they don't follow schedules.

2 cross only at marked public crossings.

anywhere else = trespassing (illegal + dangerous).

3 when approaching a railroad crossing in your car:

stay focused. phones down. music low/off. windows down to hear train, horns, or bells.

don't block the tracks. only go if your entire car and cargo can clear the crossing completely, past the the gates on both sides of the tracks.

obey the signals. if lights flash/gates lower, stop ≥ 15 ft back and wait until:

- gates are fully up
- bells/lights have stopped

always check again—there could be another train.

never go around lowered gates. it's illegal, and trains can come suddenly and silently.

if it won't fit, don't commit. before the gates come down, don't start crossing unless you're 100% sure you can clear it without stopping.

once you start—KEEP GOING. even if the gates start lowering behind you, drive through. gates are replaceable, you are not.

4 trains can't stop fast.

they may take up to a mile (≈ 18 football fields) to stop. they always get the right of way.

5 watch for multiple tracks.

one train passes? there might be another coming.

6 if your car stalls on the tracks:

- everyone gets out—immediately
- get far away
- call the number on the blue emergency ENS sign
- do not try to move the car.

flip me over for emergency action steps.



level up at
donotcrossme.com
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what to do if your vehicle stalls or hangs up on the railroad tracks

- 1 get out immediately.**
evacuate your vehicle. trains traveling 55 mph take the length of up to 15 football fields to stop!
- 2 move away.**
walk toward the oncoming train, and away from the tracks at a 45-degree angle. if your vehicle is hit, debris will spread out from the tracks in the same direction the train is moving.
- 3 locate the emergency phone number.**
when you're safely away from the tracks, find the ENS Sign, which has the railroad's emergency phone number and the DOT crossing identification number posted near the crossing. check out the sample locations below.

railroad identification, emergency phone numbers, and DOT number locations



- 4 call for help!**
call the railroad's emergency phone number, the local police, or 911. **tell them a vehicle is on the tracks.** provide the location, crossing number (if posted), and the name of the road or highway.

railroads' emergency phone numbers

MBTA commuter rail area

- Keolis Southside: (617) 222-8101
- Keolis Northside: (617) 222-6115
- Amtrak: (617) 345-7569
- Mass Coastal: (888) 783-4316
- CSX (PSCC): (800) 232-0144
- Berkshire & Eastern: (800) 955-9208

call the local police or 911 if you cannot find the railroad emergency phone number at the site.

