

Driver Education Training

Look to Live video materials

Student drivers from Independence, Missouri, spent several days with the film crew to show a variety of crossings and safety problems drivers may encounter while crossing railroad tracks. If you have concerns about a particular crossing or your vehicle gets stuck on the crossing, find the railroad's emergency number listed at or near the crossing. Report the problem or notify local law enforcement. Provide the DOT crossing ID number (an alphabet number plus 6 digits) when you call. If the problem is immediate (i.e. a vehicle is stuck at the crossing), also call the local police or 911.

SIGNS AND SIGNALS AT HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSINGS

Passive signs (not electrified) and **active traffic control devices** are installed along the roads near the railroad tracks to regulate, warn and guide traffic. They alert drivers to the presence of railroad tracks and the possible approach of a train. These signs and signal devices also provide a safety message and remind the driver of the laws regarding highway-rail grade crossings.



1. The passive **CROSSBUCK** sign is the most common sign at public highway-rail intersections. It has two crossed white boards with the words **RAILROAD CROSSING**. It marks the crossing and should be considered the same as a **YIELD** sign by other vehicles.



If there is more than one track, you may see a sign below the Crossbuck that indicates the number of tracks present. After one train has passed, wait, look and listen for another train that could be coming from either direction. Take extra care at passive crossings.



2. The **STOP** and **YIELD** signs mean the same as they do at highway intersections. A driver must always stop at the **STOP** sign in advance of the railroad track. Every driver must **YIELD** the right of way to a train.



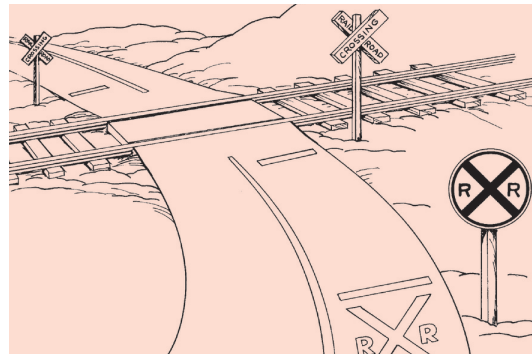
3. The **DO NOT STOP ON THE TRACKS** sign reminds the driver not to stop on the railroad track for any reason.

SIGNS IN ADVANCE OF RAILROAD CROSSINGS

These signs warn the motorist that the road crosses the railroad tracks ahead.



1. Yellow circular **ADVANCE WARNING** sign warns drivers that the railroad crosses this road up ahead. It reminds the driver to slow down, look and listen for a train and be prepared to stop if a train is approaching.
2. **PAVEMENT MARKINGS** on paved roads near the yellow circular Advance Warning sign also alert drivers that the road crosses railroad tracks ahead.



3. A **STOP LINE** may be painted across the lane on paved roads. It identifies the place to stop if a train is approaching the crossing.
4. On gravel roads there are no pavement markings or stop lines. In these cases, stop no closer than 15 feet from the nearest rail and no further than 50 feet (if needed for sight distance). The Stop Lines on each side of the single track grade crossing are 35 feet apart. Do not stop within this area.
5. The yellow diamond **PARALLEL TRACK** sign identifies highway-rail grade crossings that appear immediately after either a right or a left turn.



ACTIVE SIGNAL DEVICES AT RAILROAD CROSSINGS

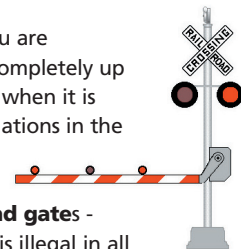
These are electrically powered devices that warn of an approaching train.

1. **Flashing Red Lights** - with or without bells-warn of an approaching train. When the red lights are flashing at a gated crossing, a train is approaching. You must stop and wait until it is clearly safe to proceed.



If a gate is present and activated, you are required to stop until the gates go completely up and the lights go out. Then proceed when it is clearly safe to do so. Know the regulations in the state(s) where you drive.

2. **Flashing Red Lights with bells and gates** - warn that a train is approaching. It is illegal in all states to go around lowered gates.



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