

# 10 Minute Training Topic

# Grade Crossing Safety

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**SafetyFirst**<sup>TM</sup>



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# Statistics

There are more than 125,000 grade crossings across the United States

More than half have warning systems

More than 60% of collisions occur at crossings with warning systems

On average, crossing signals activate only 30 seconds before a train arrives





# Crossing Types

## SINGLE TRACK

This type of grade crossing requires that vehicles and pedestrians cross over only a single “set” of railroad tracks (set meaning one track).

## MULTIPLE TRACKS

At a multiple-track crossing the road, sidewalk, or path intersects with two or more “sets” of tracks and with it brings it’s own safety considerations.





# Crossing Types

## PROTECTED CROSSINGS

A crossing with bells, flashers, gates and more is considered a protected crossing as it features various active protection systems and features.

## UNPROTECTED CROSSING

Crossings without any active safety features—*typically in rural areas or on private roads*—are unprotected and often feature only signs as warning.







# Cross with Caution

## **LOOK BOTH WAYS**

The first step when approaching a grade crossing is to look down the tracks in both directions to check for oncoming trains or equipment.

## **LISTEN CLOSELY**

It's important to listen for any signs of a train such as a whistle, the purr of a locomotive, or the sound of crossing bells going off.





# Cross with Caution

## CAN YOU CLEAR IT?

Under no circumstances should you proceed across a grade crossing if there isn't enough room on the other side for you to clear the tracks.

## DO NOT STOP ON THE TRACKS

Additionally, you should never stop atop railroad tracks or within the boundaries set between the crossing gates, signals, and signs.





# Cross with Caution

## **CHECK ALL TRACKS**

At crossings with multiple tracks you should be even more diligent and check that no trains are approaching from either direction on any tracks.

## **WAIT FOR THE GATE**

At a multi-track crossing, a passing train can obscure trains approaching on the other tracks, so it's important to always wait for the gates to go up.





# Cross with Caution

## **DON'T GET YOUR TRUCK STUCK**

Grade crossings are often raised or uneven, making it easy for longer trucks or low-riding equipment to get stuck and “bottom out” on the tracks.

## **THE TRAIN ALWAYS WINS**

Whether you're running late, behind schedule, or just impatient, never try to race a train to the crossing. There's no such thing as a tie with a train.



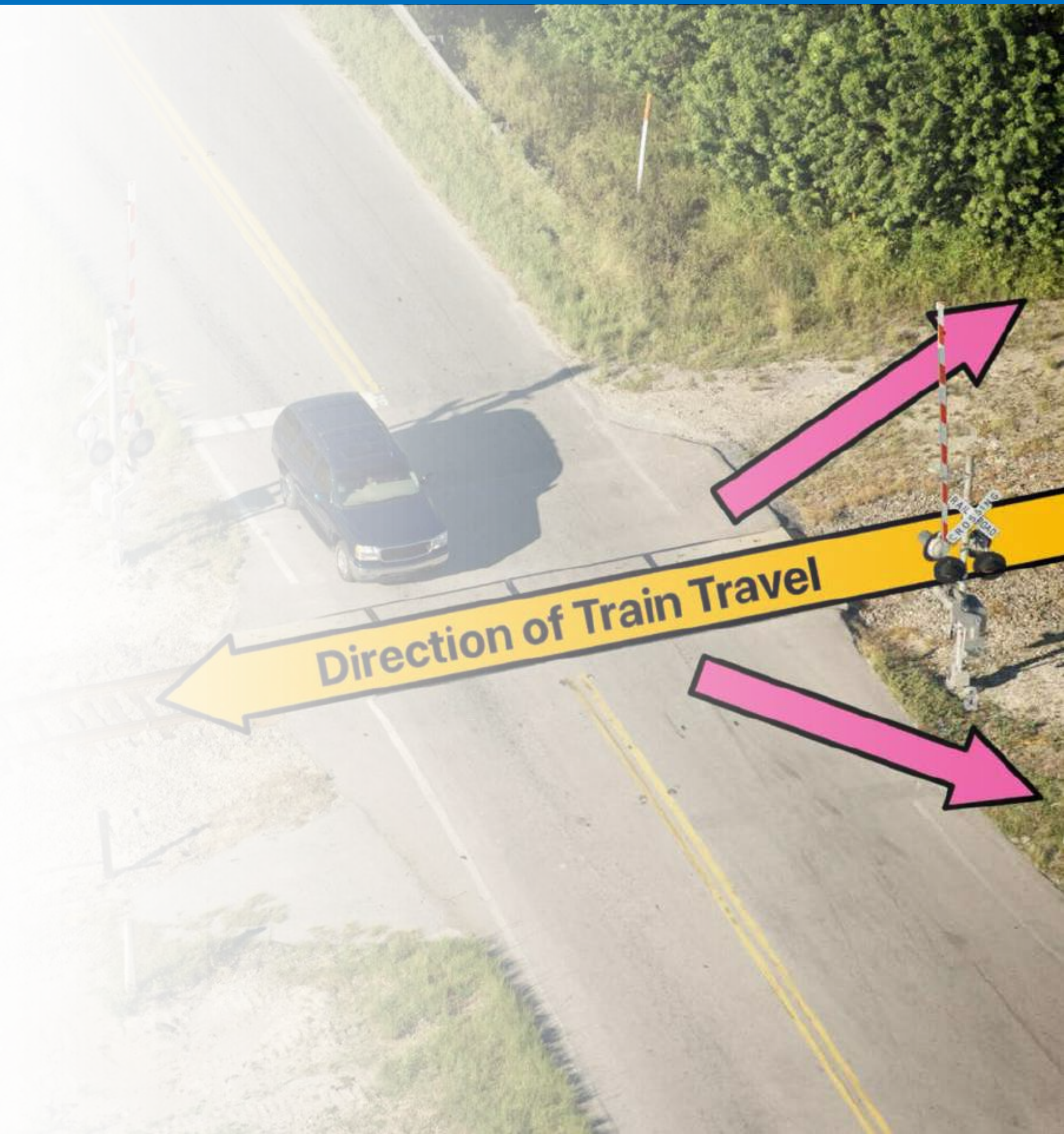
# If You Get Stuck

## LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE

If your vehicle becomes stuck on the tracks, exit it immediately and *stop only to help others exit the vehicle*—do not stop to take your belongings.

## MOVE AWAY FROM THE TRACKS

Move away from your vehicle and the tracks. If there's a train coming, move in the direction it's approaching from to stay clear of any potential debris.





# If You Get Stuck

## CALL THE RAILROAD FIRST

Once safely away from your vehicle, call the railroad first to report a stuck vehicle on the tracks. After you call the railroad you can call the police.

When you call the railroad first you directly alert train dispatchers about the situation, in turn allowing them to immediately stop any trains that may be approaching you and your vehicle.







# Know The Signs

## THE CROSSBUCK

The most recognizable sign at grade crossings, crossbucks are stationed directly before the tracks and signify that you're entering a grade crossing.

## ADVANCED WARNING SIGN

These signs signal to motorists and pedestrians that they're approaching a grade crossing and should be alert and prepared to stop if necessary.





# Know The Signs

## TRACK NUMBERS

Found directly under the crossbuck, this sign informs pedestrians and motorists about how many tracks they're approaching at the crossing.

## REPORTING SIGN (CROSSING ID)

Located below the crossbuck, these blue signs list the phone number for the railroad that's responsible for the crossing and its unique ID number.



# Summary

- Different types of crossings include single or multi-track, as well as protected and unprotected. Grade crossings can have one or more tracks and be guarded by electronic warnings or simple signs.
- Stop, look, and listen as you approach the tracks.  
Doing so is the best way to check for any oncoming trains.
- Always make sure there's room for you to clear the tracks before entering the crossing.  
If you can't cross the tracks and exit the crossing, wait until there's room to cross before proceeding.
- Wait until the gates go up before crossing the tracks.  
Passing trains might obscure other trains approaching the crossing on neighboring tracks.
- If you get stuck on the tracks, exit your vehicle and move away from it immediately.  
If a train is approaching, move away from the crossing and in the direction of the approaching train.
- Call the railroad once you're safely away from your vehicle and the tracks.  
Using the number listed on the crossing ID sign, you can directly alert the railroad about your stuck vehicle.





This document and the information contained within are to be used as guidelines.  
Refer to your company policies as well as federal, state and local law.

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