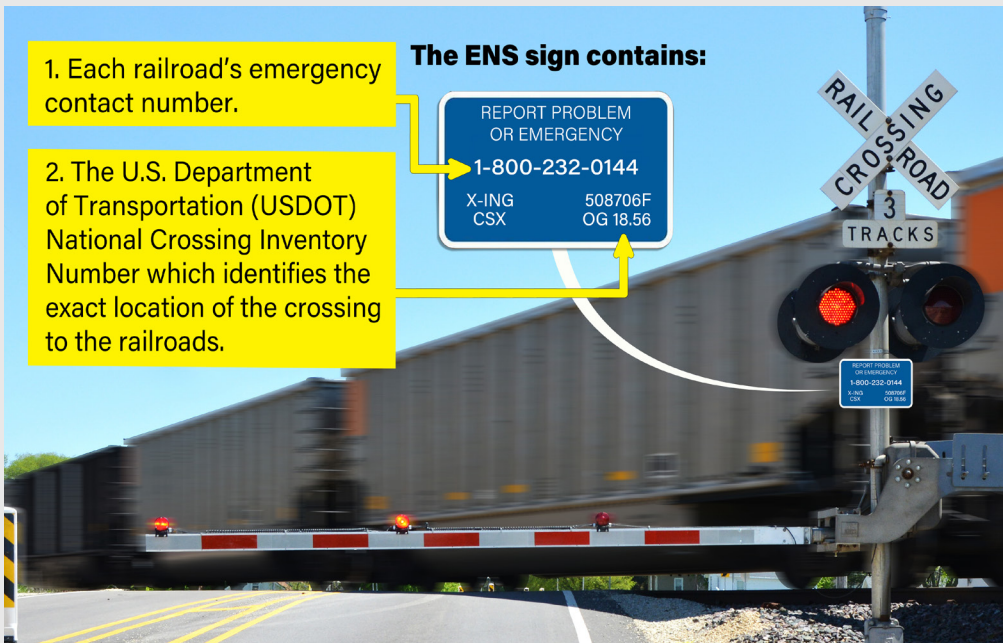


IT REALLY HAPPENED

True Stories
Real Truck Drivers
Serious Injuries



Always Expect a Train



1. Each railroad's emergency contact number.

2. The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) National Crossing Inventory Number which identifies the exact location of the crossing to the railroads.

The ENS sign contains:

REPORT PROBLEM
OR EMERGENCY
1-800-232-0144
X-ING CSX 508706F
OG 18.56

Better regulations, enforcement, engineering, and training have greatly reduced train and motor vehicle collisions across the United States. In fact, Federal Railroad Administration data show collisions declined 83 percent from 12,000 in 1972 to 2,123 in 2017, significantly reducing fatalities and injuries. However, reaching zero collisions requires more education, especially on how to drive safely through railroad crossings.

While trains collide with trucks at railroad crossings far less than with cars, truck collisions can be much

more severe. Attempting to beat a train at a railroad crossing is always a bad decision that can cost your life. Trains are closer and faster than they may seem from a truck cab window. The average freight train traveling at 55 mph needs a mile or more to stop. By the time a train engineer sees you, it's nearly always too late for them to fully stop before hitting you.

The more you know about railroad crossing safety, the better prepared you'll be to drive and thrive each day. Use the following tips to stay safe at railroad crossings.

TIPS TO LIVE BY

Management

Use [Operation Lifesaver's Truck Driver's Guide](#) for training on:

- ☐ Approaching and driving through railroad crossings.
- ☐ Crossing signs and signals.
- ☐ Responding if vehicle stalls or gets stuck on the tracks.
- ☐ Reporting emergencies and crossing malfunctions.

Drivers

- ☐ Always expect a train when you approach a crossing.
- ☐ Make sure that trailer landing gear is fully retracted to prevent getting stuck on crossings.
- ☐ If you are stuck or stalled on the tracks, get yourself and any passengers out of the truck immediately.
- ☐ If a train is coming, get out and move quickly toward the oncoming train and away from the tracks at a 45-degree angle. Debris will fly in the same direction of the train's path.
- ☐ When you are a safe distance from the tracks, call the 800 number on the blue Emergency Notification System sign at the crossing, or call 911 to alert trains of your location. Do this even if you do not see a train.



Washington State Department of
Labor & Industries

TIRES is a project of the Safety & Health Assessment & Research for Prevention (SHARP) program of the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries. TIRES is supported in part by CDC/NIOSH grant# U60 OH008487. For more information and free training resources visit

KeepTruckingSafe.org

Spring 2020 SHARP Report No.: 90-134-2020