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## TRAIN AND TRACK SAFETY: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is Operation Lifesaver?

Operation Lifesaver is a nationwide, non-profit education and public awareness program, dedicated to ending crashes, deaths and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and on railroad property. To accomplish its task, Operation Lifesaver promotes the 3 E's: **E**ducation, **E**ngineering and **E**nforcement. Operation Lifesaver:

- educates the public about highway-rail grade crossing and pedestrian safety.
- endorses continuous safety improvements at highway-rail grade crossings through design and technology.
- encourages active enforcement of laws governing crossings.

### Why do trains have the right-of-way?

Trains simply can't stop in time for a motorist at a crossing. Even if the locomotive engineer fully applies emergency brakes, a train traveling 55 miles an hour can take a mile or more to stop. A car can stop in about 200 feet. The car has the best stopping ability.

### Why are trains so long?

Long trains are efficient and cost effective. They carry more goods, which means fewer trains. Typically when a train passes, a crossing may be blocked for about two to four minutes, depending on the train's speed and length. If the crossing is near a switching yard, it may take longer.

### Why does a train sometimes just sit and block a crossing?

There may be times when a train can't move and it becomes necessary to block a crossing longer than normal; for example, when restoring pressure to the air brake system after braking for an emergency.

### Why can't trains clear the crossings faster? How fast do they go?

The speed of trains is federally regulated. Speeds are set depending on the track situation or location.

### Why don't trains go slower?

Again, trains have set speed regulations. Slowing down a train doesn't necessarily mean fewer crashes: more than half of all crossing collisions occur where train speeds are 30 miles an hour or less.

### What should we do when the signals are on and no train is visible?

If there's a railroad emergency number on the railroad equipment at the crossing, call that number; otherwise call 9-1-1 or your local law enforcement agency and give them the exact location.



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