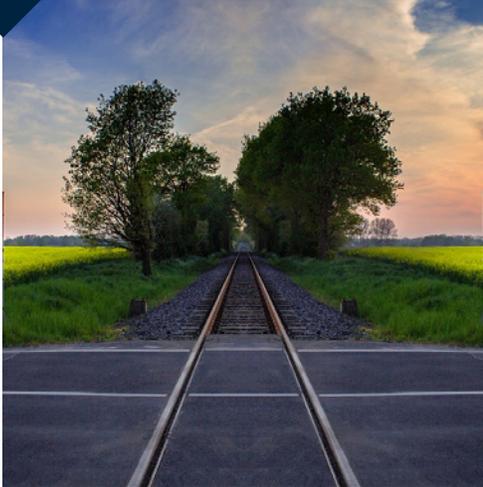


## RISK TIP

# IMPROVING RAILWAY CROSSING SAFETY THROUGH DRIVER EDUCATION



Railway crossings are just one of the unsuspecting hazards we deal with daily. They seem so easy to cross, yet when something goes wrong such as a vehicle colliding with a train, the results can be catastrophic and potentially fatal.

**The primary cause of vehicle-train collisions is driver error. The key to improving railway crossing safety is through education.**

Drivers must be aware that there are rules to follow when crossing a railway. Although these rules were likely part of the training we received when we first obtained our driver's licence, that was several years ago for many of us. Railway-specific training is a major component of continuing education and necessary in combatting complacency. Most railway incidents happen within 40 kilometres of our home or terminal location because we become too familiar with our surroundings and forget about these hazards.

It takes a train up to 2 kilometres to come to a full stop, even if the emergency brakes are activated. Being prepared is the best defense when dealing with a railway crossing. Be aware of multiple tracks and do not proceed until you can see clearly in both directions and can safely clear the crossing and gates, if present.

When preparing for a trip, take into consideration the routes that will be travelled, including the potential for any railway crossings. Knowing where these crossings are will help ensure crossing railway tracks safely.

A great resource for training and information is [www.OperationLifesaver.ca](http://www.OperationLifesaver.ca), a unique public-private partnership that promotes awareness to help save lives and reduce suffering from injuries incurred at highway/railway crossings. "We believe even one injury or fatality is one too many, because virtually every incident is preventable," says Operation Lifesaver on their website. And we agree. Start learning more about railway crossing safety, today.