



# Idealease Safety Bulletin

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## Have Your Drivers taken the ProDriver Safety Challenge?

Seventy people died last year in 511 collisions between trains and large trucks, according to the [Federal Railroad Administration](#).

Operation Lifesavers Inc., an Alexandria, Va.-based organization that works to prevent collisions on and around railroad tracks and has developed the ProDriver Safety Challenge ([oli.org/ProDriver](http://oli.org/ProDriver)) an online safety interactive education training tool your drivers can use to become more educated about the dangers of railway crossings. I recommend that all of your drivers complete this training upon hire and then annually thereafter.

## Tips for Avoiding a Collision with a Train!

- **Trains and Trucks don't mix.** Never race a train to the crossing — even if you tie, you lose.
- **The train you see is closer and faster moving** than you think. If you see a train approaching, wait for it to go by before you proceed across the tracks.
- **Be aware that trains cannot stop quickly.** Even if the locomotive engineer sees you, a freight train moving at 55 miles per hour can take a mile or more to stop once the emergency brakes are applied. That's 18 football fields!
- **Never drive around lowered gates** — it's illegal and deadly. If you suspect a signal is malfunctioning, call the 1-800 number posted on or near the crossing signal or your local law enforcement agency.
- **Do not get trapped on the tracks;** proceed through a highway-rail grade crossing only if you are sure you can completely clear the crossing without stopping. Remember, the train is three feet wider than the tracks on both sides.
- **If your vehicle ever stalls on a track** with a train coming, get out immediately and move quickly away from the tracks in the direction from which the train is coming. If you run in the same direction the train is traveling, when the train hits your car you could be injured by flying debris. Call your local law enforcement agency for assistance.
- **At a multiple track crossing** waiting for a train to pass, watch out for a second train on the other tracks, approaching from either direction.
- **When you need to cross train tracks**, go to a designated crossing, look both ways, and cross the tracks quickly, without stopping. Remember it isn't safe to stop closer than 15 feet from a rail.
- **ALWAYS EXPECT A TRAIN!** Freight trains do not follow set schedules.



Operation Lifesaver, Inc. is a national, non-profit safety education group whose goal is to eliminate deaths and injuries at railroad crossings and along railroad rights of way. Operation Lifesaver has programs in all 50 states, with trained and certified presenters who provide free safety talks to community groups, school bus drivers, truck drivers and student drivers to raise awareness around railroad tracks and trains. For more information, and to request a free safety presentation, visit [www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org).

## Parking Lot Accident Exposure Increases during the Holidays!

As we are drawing near to the holiday season it is time to remind your drivers of the exposures that exist in parking lots as they make deliveries and pickups. Parking lots at this time of the year can be especially dangerous for drivers making deliveries or just stopping for lunch. The exposure exists for a vehicle accident as well as being involved in an accident as a pedestrian. This holiday season pay special attention when operating in a parking lot and observe the following advice:



- Wear your seatbelt – even low speed collisions can throw you around the cab of your truck.
  - Obey all traffic signs such as *Stop* and *Yield*
  - Drive slowly and use your turn signals and headlights – make sure your vehicle is seen, and watch for distracted motorists who do not see you coming
  - Obey traffic lanes and do NOT drive diagonally across lots (watch for cars cutting diagonally across lots)
- Slow down for speed bumps as not to injure yourself or damage your cargo.
  - Use delivery driveway entrances for customers that auto traffic is not likely to use.
  - Beware of motorists who are lost or distracted looking for specialty stores that are not frequented.
  - Be extra careful at entrances and exits – motorists stop suddenly and for no apparent reason – tailgaters often end up in rear-end collisions, and rushing while turning into access road or side street traffic can also lead to collisions
  - Be especially careful in lots that contain Post Offices, package stores and other locations where people are prone to dart in and out hastily in a hurry to be on their way
  - Be extra careful during peak times when reckless drivers may speed through lanes while trying to get a “better spot” closer to the shops
  - Some drivers are on the “hunt” for an ideal parking spot and may drive erratically – watching for open spots rather than watching where they are driving! These drivers often circle the lanes nearest to their store – parking away from stores may make a longer walk, but prove less dangerous from a vehicle collision standpoint
  - Lock your truck at all times when not attended. Parking lots are very busy and are often targeted by thieves.



**The first parking lot in the world was created in Fort Wayne, Indiana no doubt just in time for holiday shopping.**

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