

Trains on the Caltrain corridor...

... travel up to 79 mph and weigh about 1 million lbs.

...take a mile or more to stop.

That's the length of 18 football fields!

...overhang the tracks by at least 3 feet.

Straps and other objects on the train may reach even farther.

...operate on a push-pull system.

Trains can be pushed or pulled by the locomotive, making it harder to tell which end of the train is the "front". Always look carefully to see which way the trains are moving.

...move faster and are closer than they appear.

An optical illusion gives the impression that trains are farther away and moving slower than they actually are.



KNOW THE SIGNS

Be sure to know the following signs and signals indicating a railroad crossing is ahead:



Pedestrian Crossing



On the Road



Signs & Devices at the Crossing

Rail Safety Presentations

In partnership with California Operation Lifesaver, the Caltrain Office of Public Affairs offers rail safety presentations for people of all age groups, especially students.

These presentations teach individuals how to stay safe while around the rail system and gain a better understanding of the behaviors to avoid hazards. The presentations use engaging videos and other materials to actively involve audiences in rail safety.

For more information or to schedule a presentation, call 650.508.7927.



Stay Safe
with
Caltrain



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Caltrain's "Don't Shortcut Life" safety campaign focuses on education, engineering and enforcement. Know and follow the safety tips and share them with your loved ones. Stay safe, arrive alive and don't shortcut life.



Don't Shortcut Life

You play an important part in ensuring the rail system remains a safe place for you and others. Following the basic rules of rail safety will keep you, other passengers and the community safe around the tracks.



Every month, Caltrain operates more than 138,000 miles of trips up and down the Peninsula, carrying an ever-growing number of people to work, to play and to many other destinations, safely and on time.

Trains have become a routine part of daily life for many Peninsula residents. After all, trains have been operating on Caltrain tracks for more than 150 years, and many people who live and work in the area have come to take them for granted.

But it takes only a split second for someone to drop their guard or try to squeeze around a closing gate to realize ignoring the basic rules of safety near the tracks can be a devastating decision.

When Near Railroad Tracks Always...

- 1 LOOK, LISTEN, LIVE**
Trains cannot steer. It's your responsibility to stay off the tracks. Today's trains can be quiet, so listen carefully and look both ways before crossing the tracks.
- 2 EXPECT A TRAIN ON ANY TRACK, IN ANY DIRECTION AND AT ANY TIME**
Freight, special event and other trains are not on the Caltrain schedule. Always expect a train when crossing or traveling near the tracks.
- 3 CROSS AT A PUBLIC CROSSING**
Public crossings are the only safe place to cross railroad tracks. Crossing anywhere other than a public crossing is dangerous and illegal.
- 4 PAY ATTENTION**
Pay attention to warnings, crossing signs, gates and instructions when crossing tracks, standing on platforms and while on the train. Headphones, cell phones and other distractions don't mix with being safe around the tracks.
- 5 WAIT FOR THE GATE**
Whether you're driving, walking or cycling, always wait for the gate to completely rise before crossing tracks. Going around the gate is not only illegal, it could cost you your life.
- 6 WATCH FOR A SECOND TRAIN**
When crossing multiple tracks, be careful of other trains that you may not see. The first train can block your view and give you the impression that the tracks are clear when they're not. Wait for the first train to completely clear your view of the tracks in both directions before crossing.

TRANSITWATCH

Do your part to keep the rails safe! If you see something, say something. Call Caltrain Transit Police at **1.877.SAF.RAIL (1.877.723.7245)** immediately to report any unsafe situation or suspicious activity. Save the number in your cell phone for quick and easy access.



PASSENGERS

Stand Behind the Yellow Line

Stand behind the yellow safety line on the platform at all times. Trains may express through stations at up to 79 mph.

Running Late?

There's nothing worse than knowing you cut it too close and your train is about to depart. But taking shortcuts across tracks or around pedestrian safety gates is illegal and extremely dangerous. It's better to arrive late than not at all.

CYCLISTS

Walk Your Bike

Always walk your bike - don't ride - when on station platforms or when crossing tracks.

Cross at 90-degrees

Always cross tracks at a 90-degree angle.

DRIVERS

Steer Clear of the Tracks

Only cross railroad tracks when you know you can completely clear all of the tracks. Remember, trains overhang the rail by at least 3 feet. You are not safe until you are all the way across the tracks.

Stalled Cars

If your vehicle stalls while on a crossing, immediately get everyone out of the vehicle and move quickly away from the tracks in the direction from which the train is coming. Debris flies in the direction that the train is traveling.

