



Rail Safety Tips for Off-Road Vehicle Operators

Driving an ATV, snowmobile or other off-road vehicle is a great way to enjoy Canada's outdoors—if you do it safely. But off-road vehicles and railway tracks aren't a good combination. Be sure to follow these tips—they could save your life.



USE DESIGNATED RAILWAY CROSSINGS

Always cross railway tracks at designated crossings at a 90-degree angle, or as close to it as possible. Trying to cross tracks at any other place could be deadly. Remember, trains can come at any time, from either direction. Look for signs along trails warning that you are approaching a railway crossing.



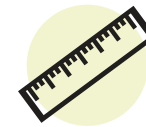
STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN FOR TRAINS

When approaching a designated crossing, slow down, look both ways and listen for approaching trains; proceed only if you are sure it is safe to do so. If a train is approaching, or if railway warning signals are activated, stop behind any gates or stop lines, or no closer than 5 metres from the closest rail, and wait for the train to pass. Cross only after the warning signals have ceased and you are certain no other trains are approaching, from either direction, and on any track.



STAY OFF THE TRACKS

Trespassing on railway property is both dangerous and illegal. Use approved trails, not railway tracks. Don't drive through train tunnels or bridges—trains are wider than rails, which leaves little to no room for you and your vehicle if a train does come along.



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Even riding next to train tracks poses a danger, so keep clear. Trains can overhang the tracks by as much as 1 metre on each side. Your helmet and the noise from your engine or the wind can also make it hard to hear approaching trains. In winter, the snow dust created by a passing train can also severely reduce your visibility.



LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE IF IT STALLS OR GETS STUCK

Your ATV or snowmobile can break down at any time—and if it happens on railway tracks, it could be deadly. If your off-road vehicle stalls or gets stuck on tracks, get off immediately and move to a safe distance (at least 30 metres away from the track). Contact the railway company and let them know there is a vehicle on the tracks (most companies post their emergency numbers at crossings either behind the crossbuck or on the signal house) or call 911.

REMEMBER:

- Take extra care at night and in winter. Snowy or nighttime conditions can reduce visibility, making it hard to see passing trains or railway crossings.
- Model the right behaviour by following rail safety rules. Younger or inexperienced riders learn by example.