



Florida Department of Transportation - District Four

Be Rail Smart Campaign

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### What is the Be Rail Smart Campaign?

The Be Rail Smart Campaign aims to enhance rail crossing safety awareness throughout the State of Florida. Each year, the campaign promotes rail safety messages in communities, especially during Rail Safety Week in September. The campaign focuses on public education and awareness through community outreach, partnerships with agencies, and print and digital media advertising. Join us to learn more about the Be Rail Smart Campaign and how you can help reduce rail crossing incidents and save lives!

### What is Being Rail Smart?

- **Respecting rail safety** in order to reduce the number of rail incidents on the tracks.
- **Being a role model** and helping others to Be Rail Smart.
- **Practicing** and learning about **safe behavior** around railroad tracks is an essential part of not getting into trouble and helping others to be safe.

### Why Be Rail Smart?

- By obeying railroad crossings laws, we all can help **reduce the number of rail incidents and save lives.**
- Everyone in the community has the opportunity to contribute to the reduction of rail incidents throughout the state of Florida.
- Reducing rail incidents not only **creates a safer environment** for those traveling in and through the area, it also sets the groundwork for the next generation of **drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.**
- Changes in travel behaviors **will help travelers and passengers arrive to their destinations safely and more efficiently.**

### How long will this campaign run for?

Campaign activities will run year-round, with special focus during Rail Safety Week, held annually in September. This year Rail Safety Week is September 23-29, 2024.



### What safety messages are being given to educate the public?

The following key messages are based on factors that can help reduce rail-related incidents.

- *Report a problem or emergency by calling the number printed on the blue Emergency Notification Sign (ENS) located at each railroad crossing. The number is unique to a rail crossing that can be called when rail incidents occur.*
- *Some trains speeds can exceed 80 miles per hour, and it can take more than a mile for some trains to stop.*
- *An approaching train may be closer and traveling faster than it appears.*
- *Don't cross the tracks when the red lights are flashing.*
- *Do not stop on the tracks.*
- *Trespassing is against the law on any railroad facility and has fines as well as jail time.*
- *You are not alone – Call for help (800) suicide, (800) 784-2433*

### What action is FDOT taking to combat train-related incidents?

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has implemented various safety features to help motorists, pedestrians and cyclists know where to cross and stop at railroad crossings. One of these features is called dynamic envelopes. Additionally, FDOT is educating the public on identifying the blue emergency notification sign. Additional features include delineators, and additional enforcement at the railroad crossings.

FDOT and agency partners such as the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) will be promoting the campaign's messages by disseminating information through social media and generating community awareness through on-site events at multiple locations throughout all counties in District Four (Broward, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River), including some locations in Miami-Dade County.



**What are the Dos and Don'ts for Rail Safety?**

Dos	Don'ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay behind the stop bar or gate while waiting for the train to pass.</li> <li>• Wait for the gates to go up completely before crossing.</li> <li>• Look both ways to ensure there are no other trains coming.</li> <li>• Use sidewalks or other designated crossings.</li> <li>• Obey all signals and warning signs.</li> <li>• Report a problem or emergency by calling the number posted on the blue Emergency Notification Sign located at each railroad crossing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go around or under the gates when they are down.</li> <li>• Stop on the tracks.</li> <li>• Take shortcuts along or over the tracks – this is trespassing.</li> <li>• Talk on the phone, text or listen to your headphones when crossing the tracks.</li> <li>• Extend your arms, legs or any other body part past the gates or stop bar.</li> <li>• Cross the tracks when red lights are flashing</li> </ul>

**Where can I find more information?**

**Website to download campaign materials and events schedule**

<https://www.fdot.gov/agencyresources/be-rail-smart/>

**YouTube Page**

<http://bit.ly/BeRailSmart>

**Social Media**

<https://www.facebook.com/MyFDOTSEFL>

[https://twitter.com/MyFDOT\\_SEFL](https://twitter.com/MyFDOT_SEFL)

[https://www.instagram.com/myfdot\\_SEFL/](https://www.instagram.com/myfdot_SEFL/)

**How can I get involved?**

For more information on how you can partner or to join our e-mail list contact:

Yanique Kelly at [Yanique.Kelly@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Yanique.Kelly@dot.state.fl.us) or via phone at 954-777-4561.