



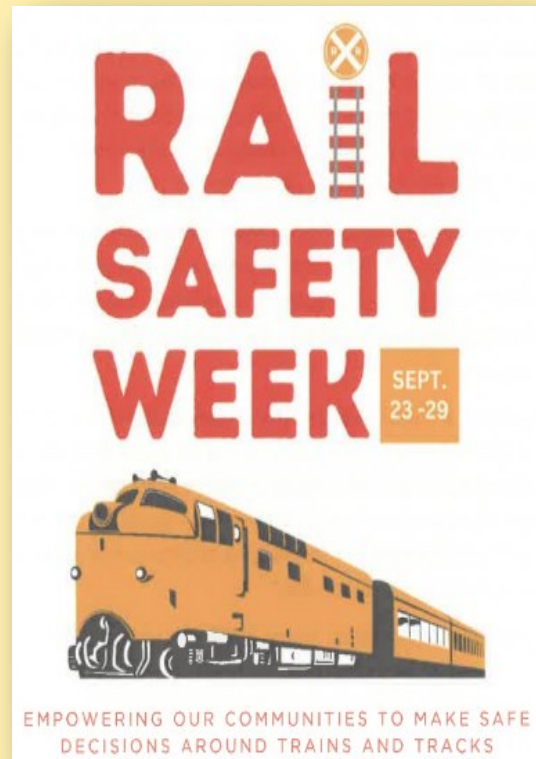
SAFETY ADVISOR

SEPTEMBER 2024

National Rail Safety Week 2024

National Rail Safety Week will take place from September 23 – 29. This year's theme is, **"See Tracks? Think Train! You Can Help #STOPTrackTragedies."**

This is an annual fall campaign to encourage safe driving, walking, and biking while around railroad tracks and encourages partnerships between state departments of transportation (DOT), national rail safety organizations, government agencies, private companies and individuals.



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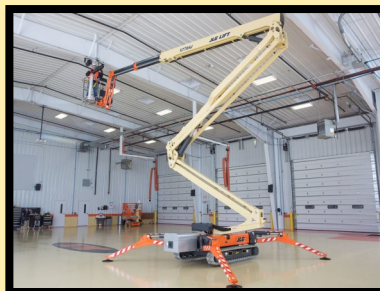
Safe Operations of Aerial Lifts

By Keith Myhre

Central Office, FDOT Occupational Safety and Health Programs

Aerial lifts comprise of two very practical pieces of equipment to operate, scissor lifts and boom lifts. Each of these allow the operator to reach great heights for working in maintenance, construction, painting and a myriad of other “off the ground” projects. Aerial lifts allow for work to be accomplished with minimal setup time compared to that of ladders or scaffolding. They can be used by multiple people, and allow for carrying equipment and supplies up with the operators. However, with its benefits, there are safety risks as well. Crushing or trapping hazards, electrocutions and tip overs, are the leading injuries documented with their use. Prior to operating an aerial lift, a safety inspection must be conducted. This inspection includes the work site and the lift itself. Operators must identify:

- Flooring or ground conditions that offer proper stability
- Presence of electrical lines or powered equipment
- Proximity of other workers in the immediate vicinity
- Wind and other weather conditions if outdoors
- Entanglement hazards
- Contact with overhead objects
- Personal protective equipment
- Functioning fall protection equipment (harness, lanyard, restraining belts)
- The lift manufacturer’s pre-inspection and operational checklist.





2024 Be Rail Smart Campaign

By Yanique Kelly

Rail Project & Safety Coordinator, FDOT District 4 - Model Development Office

The Be Rail Smart Campaign is Enhancing Rail Crossing Safety Across Florida. Launched in 2018, the Be Rail Smart Campaign will enhance rail crossing safety awareness throughout Florida. The campaign promotes rail safety messages throughout communities throughout the year, with a special focus on Rail Safety Week in September. The focus is on public education and awareness through community outreach, partnerships with agencies, and print and digital media advertising. Join us to learn more about the campaign and how you can help reduce rail crossing incidents and save lives!

What is Being Rail Smart?

- Respecting rail safety to reduce incidents on the tracks.
- Being a role model and helping others to Be Rail Smart.
- Practicing and learning about safe behavior around railroad tracks.

Why Be Rail Smart?

- By obeying railroad crossing laws, we can reduce rail incidents and save lives.
- Everyone in the community can contribute to reducing rail incidents throughout Florida.
- Reducing rail incidents creates a safer environment and sets the groundwork for the next generation of drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Changes in travel behaviors will help travelers and passengers arrive **Rail Safety Week Highlights**

During Rail Safety Week, the Be Rail Smart campaign District 4 will partner with the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) for Tri-Rail pop-up events at various stations. Our outreach team will provide educational materials to Tri-Rail users. Additionally, we will participate in Operation Lifesaver-themed events and encourage everyone to **support rail safety by wearing red on September 27th for Wear Red for Rail Safety.**



Rail Safety Week: Safety Messages to Educate the Public

Key messages to help reduce rail-related incidents include:

- Report a problem or emergency by calling the number on the blue Emergency Notification Sign (ENS) at each railroad crossing.
- Some trains can exceed 80 miles per hour and may take over a mile to stop.
- An approaching train may be closer and faster than it appears.
- Don't cross the tracks when red lights are flashing.
- Do not stop on the tracks.
- Trespassing on railroad facilities is illegal and can result in fines or jail time.
- If in distress, call for help: (800) SUICIDE, (800) 784-2433.

Refer to the graphic below for simple "DO's" and "DON'Ts" to stay safe and Be Rail Smart.

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

Rail Safety Week: Safety Messages to Educate the Public

FDOT Actions to Combat Train-Related Incidents

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has implemented various safety features to help motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists at railroad crossings, such as dynamic envelopes. FDOT is also educating the public on identifying the blue Emergency Notification Sign. Additional features include gate skirts, delineators, and increased enforcement at railroad crossings.

FDOT and partners like the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority will promote the campaign's messages through social media and community awareness events across multiple locations in District Four (Broward, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River) and some in Miami-Dade County.

What are Dynamic Envelopes?

To increase safety, FDOT has installed crosshatch markings at railroad crossings to visually highlight the zone where drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians should not stop. These markings, called “dynamic envelopes”, indicate the clearance needed for trains to pass safely. Any object within this zone has the potential to be struck by a passing train.



LIVE TO TELL

BE
RAIL
SMART



Did You Know?

- Trespassing is a leading cause of railroad related deaths.
- Trespassing is against the law on any railroad facility and has fines as well as jail time.

NO Trespassing

Florida Department
of Transportation
FS 810.09(1)

RAIL SMART FACTS

Some train speeds can exceed **80 mph**.

It takes more than **a mile** for some trains to stop.

An approaching train may be **closer**
and traveling **faster** than it appears.

REPORT PROBLEM
OR EMERGENCY
000-000-0000
X-ING
XY7 RAILROAD



If you see a damaged sign, obstructed view, or signal malfunction, call the railroad's emergency number which is posted on the blue Emergency Notification Sign located at each railroad crossing.



If you see a stalled vehicle or person walking on the tracks, call the railroad's emergency number.

Scan for Program
Information



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



BE
RAIL
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TAILGATE RESPONSIBLY: ***MAKE IT A WINNING SEASON WITH YOUR TAILGATING FRIENDS***

**Ensure
everyone
makes it
home safely
after each
game!**





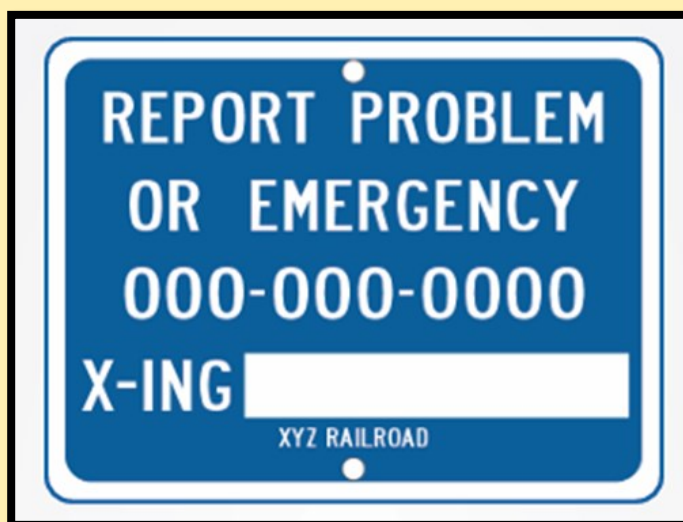
Did You Know?

Rail Safety Month: September 2024

These small blue signs near rail crossings contain a unique number for each crossing. If you see a malfunctioning stop arm, flashing lights, or a vehicle stuck on the tracks, call the number immediately. The railroad officials can then act quickly to resolve the issue.

For additional information, visit the Be Rail Smart website at:

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



The Safety Advisor is distributed electronically to all FDOT staff monthly to promote indoor and outdoor workplace safety and generate an overall awareness of safety in our lives. It is produced monthly by the State Safety Office in Tallahassee, Florida.

For content information or ideas, please email Keith Myhre

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See Department safety information at: <https://www.fdot.gov/safety>

Anonymously report hazards in your workplace: (850) 414-5255

