



Rail Safety Message

We often see a surge of incidents involving children and young people behaving dangerously near the railway, including trespassing, over the summer holidays and so would like as many people as possible to be reminded of the dangers of the railway before the schools break up.

Key messages:

- Trains are fast and quiet, travelling up to 125mph and taking 2km (1 and a quarter miles) to come to a stop.
- It is against the law to trespass on the railway and can result in a fine of £1,000 and a criminal record. This isn't just about going onto the tracks, climbing over our fences etc. is still trespassing even if you don't go on the tracks.
- The electricity is ALWAYS switched on around the railway including our equipment boxes and overhead wires, and these use very high voltages and are very dangerous.
- You don't have to be touching the wires to receive an electric shock as electricity can jump (arc) up to 3 metres in any direction – including upwards. Even if you're above the wires (e.g. climbing on a bridge) it doesn't mean you're safe from them when getting too close. The injuries received from such a shock can be life-changing, and unfortunately are often deadly.
- Always Stop, Look and Listen before using a Level Crossing. Never start to cross a level crossing when its lights are flashing.
- "Beware the Bubble" – make sure you're paying attention whenever you use any kind of level crossing; keep dogs on short leads and don't be distracted by phones, earphones etc. as you cross.
- Trains can generate turbulence as they go past, it's strong enough to drag someone onto the tracks or under the train – another good reason to not trespass, and the reason why we have the yellow lines on our platforms.
- Should you witness any incidents of unauthorised access or trespass, or any other dangerous behaviour on or near railway land please contact British Transport Police on 0800 40 50 40, text 61016, or in emergencies call 999. You can also call the Network Rail 24 hour helpline on 03457 11 41 41.

For more information on railway safety you can visit the websites

<https://switchedonrailsafety.co.uk/> which has games, quizzes, and activities aimed at those aged 3 to 16 years old.

