![Short Line Safety Institute logo]

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY TIP

RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY PRECAUTIONS

While not inherently dangerous, the rail environment contains a unique infrastructure and moving equipment. It's better to **know before you go** when responding to calls for service on railroad property. First responders can take the following steps to help keep themselves and others at the scene safe.

Train Traffic
- Trains should be expected at any time from any direction
- Before going on or near railroad tracks verify that train traffic has been stopped.
  - Locate the Emergency Notification Sign that is at every crossing. Call the posted number and request all trains be stopped.
    - Check for additional signs as another railroad may own adjacent track
  - Verify this with the first railroad representative on the scene.
- Do not park vehicles or stage equipment within 25 feet of the track.
- If possible, assign spotters to grade crossings on either side of the impacted area

Personal Safety
- **General:**
  - Do not step on top of the rail or walk in between the rails
  - Be aware of slip, trip, and fall hazards, and use caution walking on ballast (rock)
  - Personal protective equipment should include a minimum of eye protection, boots, and high visibility markings on outer garments.
  - Do not use cellphones or other electronic devices within 25 feet of track (distraction).
- **Derailment or collision site**:
  - Establish a safety buffer around railcars.
  - Identify and use caution near items under pressure that may shift as equipment is moved.
  - Use the ASKRAIL app to safely identify the contents of a rail car from a distance.
    - Locate the train crew. Request a copy of the train's paperwork which contains emergency response information and have a crew member remain with the incident commander until a management representative arrives.
  - Be aware of utilities (natural gas, fiber optic cable, etc.) that may be buried along the right-of-way.
  - Maintain a buffer (red zone) around machinery such as cranes and backhoes.