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THEY'RE STILL STALLING



Safety Message from Project P.I.E.
(Public Information and Education)
FACT SHEET #022
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On Guard



U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

In January of 1994 we warned you to be "On Guard" for hazardous situations where truck-tractor and trailer rigs could become stalled on railroad tracks. We cautioned you to approach the tracks slowly enough to stop if necessary. We pointed out that trucks hauling hazardous materials have to make full and complete stops at all highway-rail crossings. We urged drivers whose trucks have low ground clearances not to take chances at high-profile grade crossings.

But, some drivers are still stalling, grounding out, or height centering at highway-rail crossings. Not only that, they're still being hit by trains. Since we issued that 1994 "On Guard" bulletin, more than 100 truck-trailer rigs have been struck by trains while stopped or stalled at crossings and more than 30 people have been injured as a result.

What Actions should you take if your truck "high centers" at a highway-rail intersection?

First, notify the State or local police immediately, utilizing 911, if available, to:

1. Advise them of the situation, and of the location.
2. Ask them to notify the railroad immediately.
3. Ask them to assist on site as quickly as possible.

The driver should look around the crossing for posted emergency phone numbers for the railroad and call it directly, if possible. Warning signs or flares should be placed on the road to alert others available to assist you. You should also consider using flares along the railroad right-of-way approximately a mile in each direction to warn approaching trains.

But the flares are no guarantee that trains will stop. The engineer may not see the flare or be able to stop in time.

Everyone should stay clear of the stranded vehicle. If there is a radio or phone in the vehicle, the driver should use it and then stay clear. If a train approaches, everyone should move as far away as possible from the track. This should best protect you from any impact.