

# RAILROAD CROSSING SAFETY FOR PEDESTRIANS

## Always Expect a Train

As pedestrians we need to:

- Stay alert—it is easy to get distracted, especially by phones, music, and conversation
- Stop, look both ways, and listen
- Follow all signs and instructions
- Cross the tracks only at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings
- Cross quickly, never stop on tracks
- Be especially cautious if crossing a railroad on a bike, with a stroller, or in a wheelchair. Always cross at a 90° angle as your wheels can become stuck on the tracks



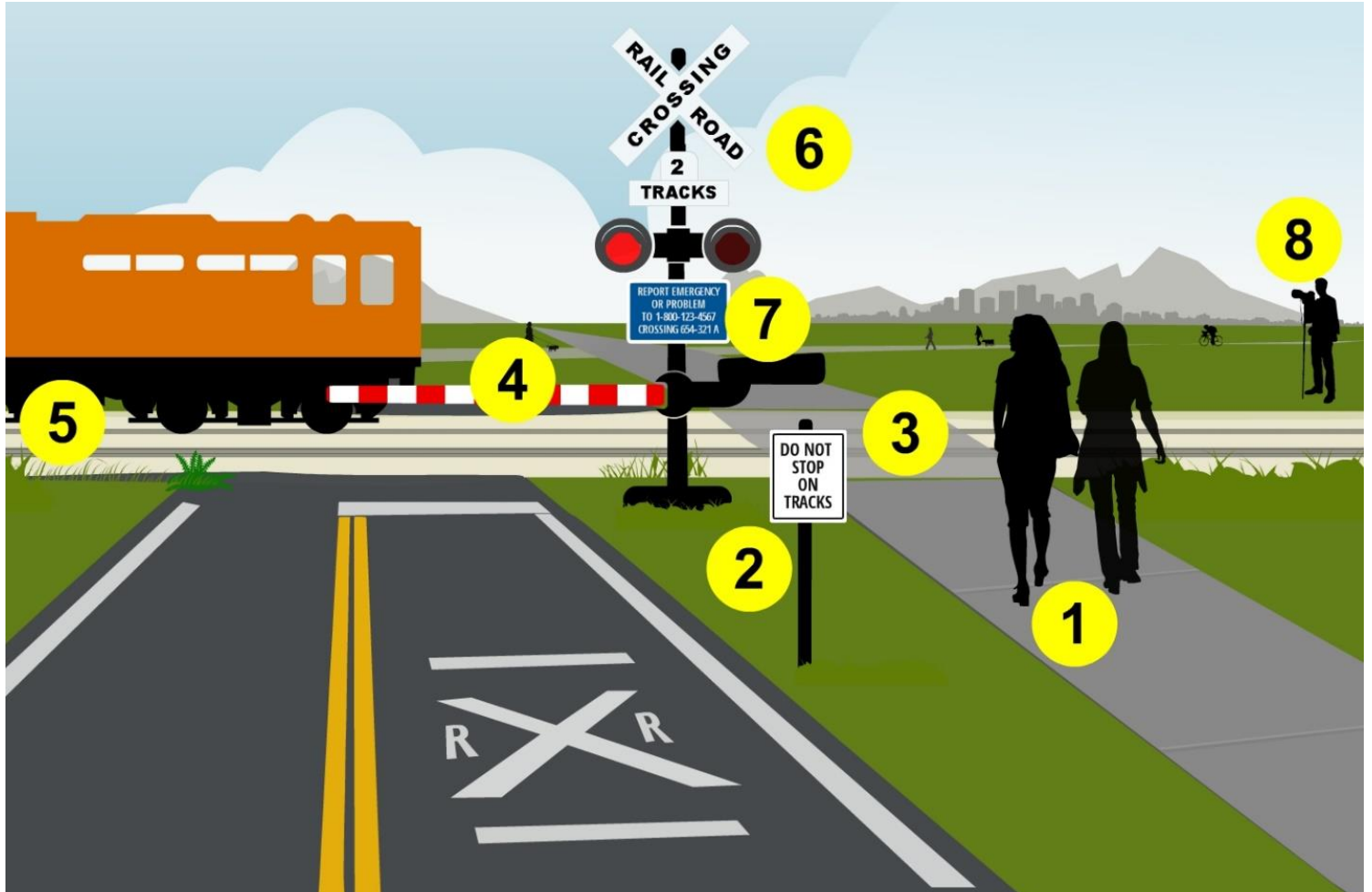
U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
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**1** Before you cross, make sure you stop, look both ways for an approaching train, and listen. Do not let yourself be distracted by friends, phones, or music.

**5** Stay at least 10 feet away from tracks when waiting for a train to pass. Trains are wider than the tracks and can overhang the tracks.

**2** Never loiter or stop on tracks. Not all crossings will have this sign, regardless, never stop on the tracks.

**6** Stop, look both ways, and listen. This crossbuck sign marks where the railroad tracks are located. Often a crossbuck will be accompanied by a sign that will tell you how many tracks are at the crossing. If there is more than one track, always look for a second train.

**3** Cross tracks ONLY at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings. Always remember—the only safe place to cross is at a designated crossing. If you cross at any other place, you are trespassing and can be ticketed or fined.

**7** If your vehicle stalls or is stuck on the crossing, move away from the tracks and your car at a 45° angle. Call the number on the Emergency Notification System (ENS) sign (or 911 if sign is not visible) for help.

**4** Stop—never disregard a gate or ignore signs or flashing lights posted at a railroad crossing. **Be aware**—not all crossings have gates and/or flashing lights. This does NOT mean the railroad is not in use. Regardless of signage, always proceed through a crossing with caution.

**8** Do not put yourself and others at risk by trying to take a photo on the tracks.



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## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

### Put your railroad crossing safety knowledge to the test!

1. As you approach a crossing you should...
  - a. Turn off your music, look both ways, and slow down
  - b. Continue talking with your friend and ignore signs
  - c. Take a selfie and then figure out a filter for your new Instagram pic
  - d. Start running so you can jump over the crossing gate
  
2. You are allowed to cross a railroad wherever you want
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
3. If you have a railroad crossing emergency where can you find the number to call?
  - a. On the crossing arm
  - b. On the train
  - c. On the Emergency Notification System sign
  - d. On the advance warning sign
  
4. It is dangerous and possibly illegal to stand on the tracks and take photos of yourself, others, and/or trains
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
5. All crossings have flashing lights and gates
  - a. True
  - b. False

Answers: 1. A, 2. B, 3. C, 4. A, 5. B



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