

# Blocked Crossings Fast Facts

Office of Railroad Safety

November 2021

In December 2019, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) established a webpage for the public and law enforcement to report blocked highway-rail grade crossings.

Blocked crossings occur when stopped trains impede the flow of motor vehicle or pedestrian traffic at railroad tracks for extended periods of time. Blocked crossings pose potential safety risks: frustrated individuals may be tempted to crawl between stopped railcars, and blocked crossings can hinder emergency services' access to individuals and hospitals.

Communities have long dealt with the issue of blocked crossings, and any regulations regarding blocked crossings are at the state or local level. FRA has no regulatory authority; thus, it focuses on providing data, investigating crossings that have 3 different incidents in a 30-day window, and facilitating local solutions with railroads and local authorities.

The data collected from the webpage helps FRA to identify where chronic problems exist and to better assess the underlying causes and overall impacts of blocked crossings. The FRA Blocked Crossing webpage, [www.fra.dot.gov/blockedcrossings](http://www.fra.dot.gov/blockedcrossings), requests specific information from users reporting blocked crossings such as date, time, location, and duration. It is not to be used to report emergencies at crossings.

## Data Highlights from December 31, 2019 to September 30, 2021

- **Reports, incidents, investigations:**
  - 25,374 total reports received
  - 18,801 incidents at 5,773 crossings
  - 906 investigations performed
  
- **Top 4 railroads reporting incidents:**
  - CSX Transportation           6,668
  - Union Pacific Railroad   6,350
  - Norfolk Southern         4,428
  - BNSF Railway             3,175
  
- **Top 5 states reporting incidents:**
  - Ohio                         5,174
  - Illinois                    3,659
  - Texas                      2,214
  - Indiana                    2,037
  - Colorado                 1,385

## State Laws

For information on states' statutory provisions concerning blocked crossings, visit [Compilation of State Laws - 7th Edition-eLibrary.pdf \(dot.gov\)](#)