

FACT SHEET

Railroad accidents.

Accidents involving (heavy goods) vehicles at a railroad crossing happen regularly. Occasionally these accidents result in injuries and sometimes even fatalities. This is due, for example, to the fact a truck enters a traffic jam and comes to a standstill at the railroad crossing. Or the railroad crossing is located in a bend that the truck has taken too tightly, preventing it from passing the railroad crossing in one go. Or a (heavy goods) vehicle starts to drive even though the red indicators have not been turned off.

Serious consequences

An accident at a railway crossing has serious consequences for the driver and others involved. The impact on the train driver, the other occupants of the train and the people waiting at the railroad crossing is considerable. Trains arriving after the 'collision train' are also affected by the incident because the crossing is often closed for hours due to necessary repairs. In addition to severe injuries accidents can easily cause tons of substantial material damage and millions in economic damage.

Prevention

Are you driving in a traffic jam? Keep sufficient distance from the vehicle in front of you. Do not cross the railway crossing until there is enough space for your vehicle after the crossing. This especially applies to trucks with trailers. When crossing a railroad crossing in one go, the risk of the engine stalling at the crossing is minimized. Also keep in mind that the railroad crossing may be slightly elevated, which increases the risk of jamming.

If your vehicle stopped in front of the railroad crossing barriers, you can turn your front wheels to the left or to the right to prevent you from being pushed onto the track if someone drives into the back of your vehicle.

Carefully look to the left and right before crossing the railroad. The railroad crossing technique could also be defective.



Have the railroad crossing barriers closed while you are stopped on the crossing? Do not wait, but continue to drive through the crossing. Barriers are only attached to crossing systems with bolts and will break off when you drive into them. A defective railroad crossing is better than a collision with a train.

If there is a technical defect at an actively protected railroad crossing, the crossing barriers will always drop automatically for safety reasons. Only cross the railroad crossing if you have received permission from the police or traffic controller.

Trucks and coaches

In addition to the risk of stopping on railroad crossings during traffic jams, some other risks also play a role for trucks (and to a lesser extent also for coaches). Do you want to enter a road that is parallel to the railway? Check in advance whether you can make the turn with your truck. If the bend turns out to be too tight, you may be forced to reverse your truck or coach back on-to the railroad crossing. This, just like turning on a railroad crossing, is life-threatening. In these situations, do not blindly trust your navigation system but try to assess the situation properly and, if necessary, choose another railroad crossing. Know the height of your truck constellation. If the



load is irregular be alert to the retraction of cranes and other oversized parts. Unfortunately, these often cause considerable damage collision with a railroad bridge or by breaking the overhead wires. Never touch a broken overhead contact line. Voltage remains in the lines, even if it is pulled apart. In case broken overhead wires are on your vehicle, stay in your vehicle or truck and keep the windows closed. As long as your vehicle is closed you are safe in your 'Faraday cage'. Use your phone to contact the fire brigade and they will safely get you out of the vehicle.

Low loader risks

For haulers that use low loaders, level crossings are measured regularly. With a low loader, not all railroad crossings can be passed. In order to help you determine which railroad crossing you can cross without risk

of jamming, all crossings are listed on the "Digitale Wegenkaart Ontheffingen" (Digital Exemptions Road Map). This road map can be accessed via the link <https://dwo.rdw.nl>. We recommend that your planning department use this map and, in addition to the drivers, inform the planners about risks and possible consequences.

Finally

If the railroad crossing cannot be cleared within 15 seconds, ProRail must be contacted. They will then take measures to make transit (and crossing the railway crossing) possible. Report dangerous and/or unclear matters to ProRail Public Contacts. You can reach them on +31 800 7767245 or via www.prorail.nl/contact. An e-mail with a description and photos of the situation on site can be sent to the specially appointed reporting center: superhenk@prorail.nl.

Contact

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