

News service

Correct behaviour at level crossings

Over 90 per cent of accidents that happen where roads cross railway lines are due to drivers' inattentiveness, ignorance or impatience. The ten simple rules given here can save lives

1. Level crossings are marked with a St. Andrew's cross. Where this road sign is present, trains have right of way at all times. This is because trains need much longer to brake than cars due to their size and the high speeds at which they travel.
2. Approach the level crossing slowly and be ready to brake at any time. White roadside markers bearing red stripes show you how far away the level crossing is (3 stripes = 240 metres, 2 stripes = 160 metres, 1 stripe = 80 metres).
3. Observe the road signs that tell you the permitted speed.
4. Do not overtake in any circumstances.
5. Heed any alarm signals sounding from the level crossing or from the trains.
6. Turn down the volume on your radio. Remove earphones or headphones.
7. At the St. Andrew's cross sign, look carefully down the tracks both ways. Only continue over the crossing when you are certain that no train is coming.
8. Always stop if the lights on the level crossing are red, even if the barriers are still up. Stop, too, if the crossing is showing a yellow light and a red flashing light.
9. When the barriers are down, this means stop. They are lowered for a reason. Never drive around them and do not climb over them.
10. If your car breaks down on the level crossing, leave it and call the emergency number 112. Your life is more important than your car.

