



www.mass.gov/southcoastrail

SAFETY FIRST

The MBTA is excited to return passenger rail service to Southeastern MA communities for the first time in 60 years. With passenger trains to be operating soon, it's important for everyone to understand that safety is MBTA's top priority throughout the region. A new education program reinforces this message: Safety First shares life-saving practices to follow near and around the South Coast Rail (SCR) Right-of-Way (ROW). While SCR is eagerly awaited, staying safe around tracks and trains is essential. We don't want you, your family, friends, or pets to end up in a dangerous situation. Keeping the ROW clear will make trips safe and reliable for our riders, too.

Learning about safety is key because the region has not seen passenger trains in decades. People have become comfortable using the ROW for recreation, such as dog walking, ATV and dirt bike riding, running, and taking shortcuts. Sheds, swimming pools, and encampments have been built on and near the tracks, which have also become a dumping ground for trash and debris. Since 1959, the tracks in this area have only seen freight trains a few times a day at relatively low speeds, only recently increasing to 25 mph in certain areas. In the coming months, MBTA test trains will begin operating more frequently at speeds up to 80 mph.

Safety First

Safety First consists of materials, meetings and briefings. The MBTA team is offering presentations, brochures, videos, and conversations to emphasize Safety First for every age, occupation, and resident.

The first rule of Safety First is always to stay clear of the Right-of-Way (ROW). It is very dangerous and illegal to trespass onto the railroad ROW: it is never safe to be near or around railroad tracks. Only cross tracks in designated locations and obey all warning signs and signals. We'll be sharing these and other safety basics as we near testing and service. Our goal is to bring an understanding of safety rules to every Southeastern Massachusetts city and town.

Sharing the Message

We'd like to ask for your help to boost outreach and educate the region on ROW safety. This fact sheet provides information you can review and help us share. If you meet or talk to people who should hear from us, please let us know. On the following pages, you can see the materials we are promoting through emails, presentations, and coordination with our partners. How can you help?

- Send us suggestions for outreach or tell us what worries you about safety and the ROW. Each month we are featuring a different safety topic in our eblasts. We encourage you to [sign up for our updates here](#) and to recommend them to others.
- Direct questions or concerns about future rail service directly to our team at SouthCoastRail@dot.state.ma.us and we'll be happy to address any inquiries.
- If you're a part of an organization with scheduled meetings, request that a discussion of ROW safety be added to the agenda of a meeting to raise awareness of coming rail traffic and how to stay safe.
- Do you live in the region? Ask your parent/teacher organization or neighborhood group to share our materials or request a presentation.
- Encourage members of your community to become familiar with the railroad so that they know the locations of designated grade crossings, and how to safely cross tracks.
- Share appropriate materials with your family – safety is essential wherever you live.

We welcome suggestions and ideas. Please send them via our email, SouthCoastRail@dot.state.ma.us and put *Safety First* in the subject line.

**Always
expect a
train at a rail
crossing**

- Slow down, look both ways and listen
- Never stop on tracks
- Cross only where designated
- Trespassing on tracks is illegal



Safety First Materials

Operation Lifesaver Brochures/Translations

The brochures below are currently available in English and Spanish and will soon be ready in additional languages.

- * All Drivers:
[Stay Safe. Know the Facts](#)
- * Pedestrians, Joggers and Cyclists:
[Stay Safe. Know the Facts](#)
- * Outdoor Enthusiasts:
[Stay Safe. Know the Facts](#)
- * School Bus Drivers:
[Stay Safe. Know the Facts](#)
- * First Responders:
[Stay Safe. Know the Facts](#)
- * Commuters:
[Stay Safe. Know the Facts](#)



Operation Lifesaver Print Material

Posters

- * [See Tracks Think Train 11x17" Poster](#)

Books

- * [Trains and Tracks Book for Children](#)

South Coast Rail Videos

Safety Video Series (playlist)

- * [General Public Video](#)
- * [Elementary School Video](#)
- * [Middle School Video](#)
- * [High School Video](#)

Safety Vignette

- * [Track Safety Basics](#)