

What to do if your bus stops on a railroad grade crossing

Evacuate the bus immediately if your bus stalls on a railroad crossing. Follow these procedures:

1. Tell your customers that the bus will have to be evacuated.
2. Identify customers who need special assistance—wheelchair dependent, elderly, visually or hearing impaired.
3. Ask for volunteers to help evacuate customers with special needs.
2. Evacuate able-bodied customers first, then customers with special needs.
4. Instruct customers to walk at least 50 feet away from the bus and tracks to avoid flying debris should a collision occur.
5. If time permits, use the bus radio to report your emergency situation to Central Communications. If time does not permit, exit the bus immediately and use a public or cellular phone to notify Central Communications of the problem.
6. Give Central Communications the grade crossing location if available. It is posted on a sign in a fixed area on both sides of the grade crossing.



7. Under no circumstances should you or your customers reboard the bus.

Remember

When confronted with an emergency grade crossing situation, remain calm. Apply the techniques and procedures outlined in this brochure and those you learned during your training. These techniques and procedures will help you work your way through the problem and ensure the safety of you, your customers and the equipment entrusted in your care.



**For more information
about grade crossing
safety training,
please call the
Bus Training Department at
202/962-5656.**

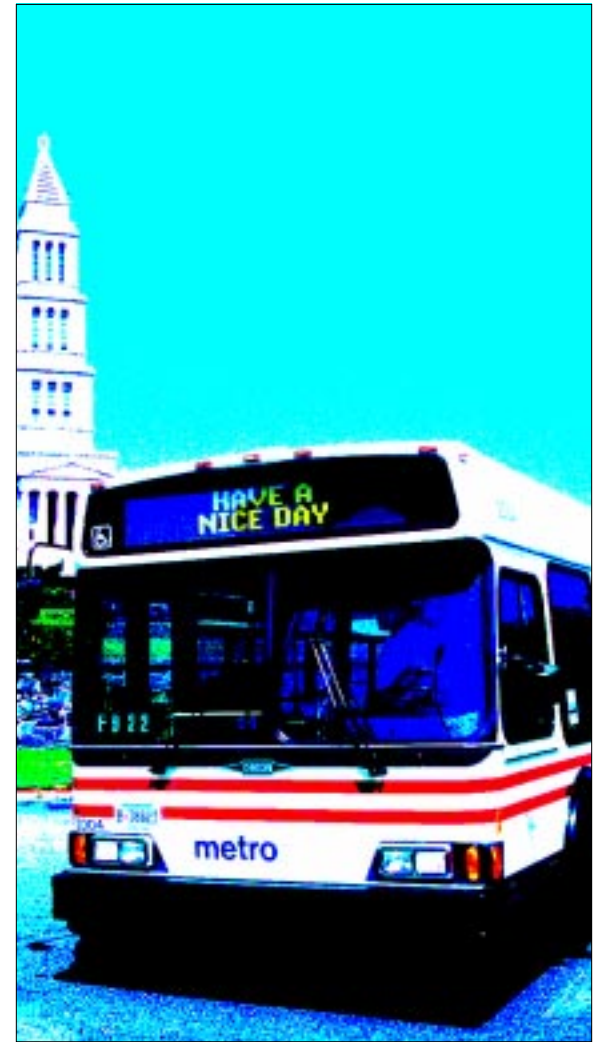


**National
Safety
Council**

Stop!

Look, Listen & Live®

Railroad Grade Crossing Safety



Washington Metropolitan Area
Transit Authority Office of Safety
202/962-1057



As an operator of Metrobus and other Metro vehicles, safety is your highest priority. Of all the conditions you encounter as an operator, none are more dangerous than railroad grade crossings. The Office of Safety developed this brochure to provide you with basic information on how to handle emergency situations while operating an Authority vehicle.

Important facts

Throughout the metropolitan area, WMATA operates:

- 1,400 buses,
- 138 contract-operated paratransit vehicles, and
- over 1,000 tagged non-revenue vehicles

These vehicles traverse 23 railroad grade crossings over 5,200 times a week. Thousands of highway-railroad grade crossing collisions in the United States occur each year resulting in numerous injuries and fatalities.

Grade crossings vary

Protected crossings are equipped with warning lights, bells and gates.



Passive crossings are marked only with cross buck signs.



Some grade crossings have good visibility.



While others have views that are blocked by foliage.



Know your vehicle's length

Be aware of the length of your vehicle when you cross a railroad grade crossing. Metrobuses range from 26 to 55 feet in length. Allow five feet more than the length of the bus to compensate for the width of the train body extending beyond the tracks.

The containment space ahead must be considered. It can be compromised by a traffic light or by an aggressive driver who cuts in front of your vehicle as you move ahead. This could leave your vehicle on the tracks. Many vehicle-train collisions occur this way.

Train facts

Metro vehicles go over grade crossings used by Amtrak, CSX, MARC and Norfolk Southern. These trains travel at speeds ranging from 40 to over 80 miles per hour. Remember: trains can't stop quickly. A 100-car freight train moving at 55 miles per hour requires a mile or more to stop.

Railroad grade crossing safety

Exercise the following standard operating procedures to approach and cross a railroad grade crossing safely.

1. Activate your 4-way flashers.
2. Bring your bus to a complete stop.
3. Open your left side driver's window.
4. At night, turn off your interior lights to reduce window glare which could prevent you from seeing an oncoming train.
5. Open the right side passenger door.
6. Check in both directions. If all is clear, close your right side door.
7. Ensure there is adequate space ahead to accommodate your vehicle.
8. Proceed across the tracks without stopping.

**Remember if it don't fit ... don't commit.
If stalled on a grade crossing,
call CSX emergency
1-800-232-0144**