



Michigan **Operation Lifesaver** (OL) and its safety partners want you to be alert and safe near railroad tracks. A snowmobile operator's first responsibility is safety.

Remember these Lifesaving Tips:

STAY OFF! STAY AWAY! STAY ALIVE!

More safety tips:

- Trespassing on railroad property is dangerous and illegal; cross only at designated locations.

Locomotives and rail cars are wider than rails, highway bridges, and tunnels. Riding next to the railroad tracks could put you in danger.

- Always expect a train on any track, in either direction, at any time!
- Ride on approved trails only.
- Always cross tracks at a designated crossing as close to 90 degrees as possible.
- Model and teach young riders the correct way to cross tracks:
 - STOP no closer than 15 feet from the rail.
 - LOOK both ways and LISTEN for approaching trains. Remember, if more than one track, trains can travel at any time on any track in any direction.
 - Cross tracks only when you are certain it is safe.
- Be cautious, especially when riding at night or in snowy conditions. These conditions reduce visibility making it difficult to see obstacles or passing trains at railway crossings.

SET THE EXAMPLE FOR SAFETY

Each year people die because they are not aware of the hazards associated with trespassing on railroad property.

MICHIGAN STATE LAWS

There are several state statutes regarding trespassing on railroad property by walking, riding snowmobiles, hunting, off road vehicles etc. Some of these statutes are:

Trespass MCL 462.273: walking, riding, driving or being upon or along right-of-way.

Snowmobiles MCL 324.82126: Operating a snowmobile on a railroad or railroad right-of-way.

ORV's MCL 324.81133: Operating a ORV on a railroad or railroad right-of-way.

<https://www.legislature.mi.gov/>

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Railroads have a ZERO TOLERANCE policy concerning trespassing. State law does not require railroad property to be posted "No Trespassing", and no previous warnings concerning trespassing are required before Law Enforcement (LE) can issue violation notices. LE Agencies from the State, County, Local and Railroad actively enforce these state statutes.

SCHEDULE A PRESENTATION

It's FREE! Contact Operation Lifesaver for a presenter to speak to your snowmobile club or group.

Sam A. Crawl

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TRESPASSING ON RAILROAD PROPERTY IS DANGEROUS AND ILLEGAL.

STAY OFF, STAY AWAY, STAY ALIVE!