Kids and Railroad Safety

The Facts

A child dies every 5 days as a result of being struck by a train. (Ages 0-19)

Boys are nearly 3 times as likely as girls to be fatally struck by a train.

Teens ages 15-19 are at greatest risk of being injured or killed — nearly 4 times greater than kids ages 10-14, and nearly 6 times greater than kids ages 5-9.

More children are getting hurt in the hours immediately following school dismissal and after school activities.

Despite the Facts

71% of parents were not concerned about their teen being hit by a train.

Half of parents admit to taking risks around railroads, such as walking along train tracks and driving around gates.

7 in 10 parents did not recognize “walking on, near, or along train tracks” as trespassing.

Less than half of parents (47%) have had a conversation with their children about rail safety.

ReTrain Your Brain

- Only cross train tracks at a designated crossing.
- If lights are flashing or the gate is down at a railroad crossing, wait for the train to pass completely, for the gates to lift and for the lights to stop flashing before crossing the tracks.
- Allow enough space for your vehicle to completely clear the entire railroad crossing, not just the tracks, before you attempt to cross.
- If you are using a cell phone, headphones or a game, remember: Heads Up, Devices Down when you cross the tracks.
- Don’t be tempted to walk along the train tracks. It might be a shortcut, but it is dangerous.