

LOOK RIGHT, LOOK LEFT FOR TRAINS



Background

Rail Safety Week aims to raise awareness about rail safety and encourage safe behaviour around the rail network.

This year Rail Safety Week will run from 13-19 August. It is planned and coordinated by KiwiRail in close association with TrackSAFE NZ, NZ Police, NZ Transport Agency, Auckland Transport (AT), Transdev Auckland, Transdev Wellington, Greater Wellington Regional Council and local councils throughout New Zealand.

Rail operators, local councils and NZ Police representatives will be out and about around New Zealand during the week, engaging with the public and reminding them of the importance of safety around the rail network.

The rail environment

In New Zealand there are more than 3000 level crossings – that’s a level crossing approximately every 1.5 kms on around 4000km of track. Since 2012, 105 people have died from collisions with trains in New Zealand.

Safety is a strategic priority for the New Zealand government, with the recently-released Government Policy Statement on Land Transport (“GPS’). The GPS sets out the Government's strategic direction for the land transport system for the next ten years and how it will be funded.

The GPS recognises the importance of organisations working together in a coordinated approach to reduce risk.

Emerging risks

- Railway lines are being re-opened by KiwiRail using funding from the Government’s Provincial Growth Fund. The Main North Line has reopened between Picton and Christchurch following the Kaikoura earthquake. Some people in communities may have become complacent about the presence of trains.
- Current and forecast social and environmental changes in New Zealand mean an increased risk profile at level crossings, particularly at pedestrian level crossings in urban areas.
- More electric trains in our major cities of Wellington and Auckland are quieter than diesel trains, and there are increasing frequency of services.

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- Greater numbers of commuter and freight trains will be on the network as the City Rail Link project comes to fruition and demand for regional passenger trains grows.
- The population is growing and there are increasing levels of urban development, as well as high projected growth in rail freight.
- The increasing use of mobile technology around railway tracks is a major concern. Three of the deaths at level crossings in the past 18 months reportedly involved the use of headphones.

Level crossing incidents by region - Jan 2008 - Jun 2018

Region	Collision Heavy Vehicle	Collision Light Vehicle	Collision Person	Near Collision Heavy Vehicle	Near Collision Light Vehicle	Near Collision Person	Total
Northland	3	3	2	1	7		16
Auckland	4	11	18	41	242	202	518
Waikato	3	20	2	37	92	6	160
Bay of Plenty	2	14	3	26	49	11	105
Taranaki	3	10	1	13	53	3	83
Man-Wanganui	3	25		30	86	15	159
Wellington	3	8	5	14	96	119	245
Marlborough	3	5	3	15	25	3	54
West Coast	1	15	1	11	95	1	124
Canterbury	6	41	5	74	171	19	316
Otago		18		7	58	2	85
Southland	2	14		17	26	3	62
(blank)					1		1
Hawke's Bay	2	8		14	28	4	56
Gisborne	1						1
Total	36	192	40	300	1029	388	1985

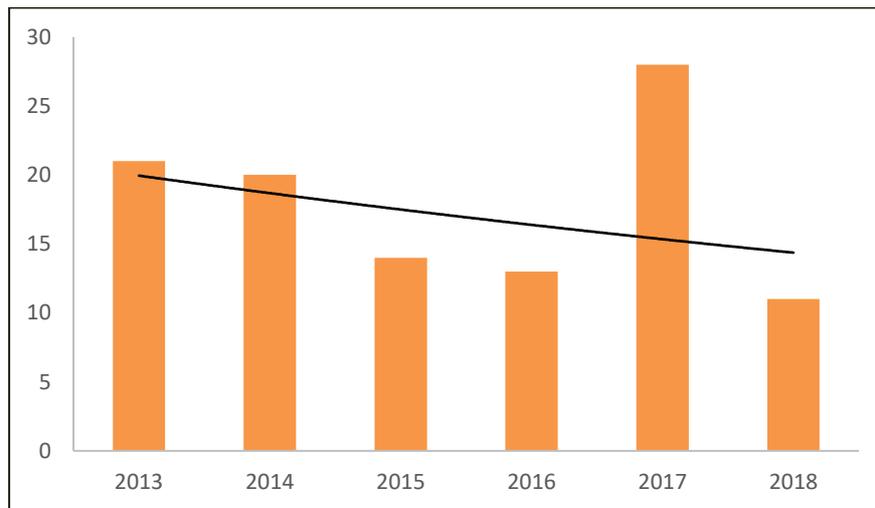
See also <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/rail-safety-statistics/>

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Motorist safety

Incidents between trains and vehicles are relatively rare, and collision rates have continued to decline since the 1990s.



Source: KiwiRail Incident Reporting Investigation System

However while incidents on the rail network are only a small percentage of all fatal collisions on New Zealand roads, there are some important distinctions between level crossing collisions and road crashes, especially the severity of outcome.

A motorist is 13.2 times more likely to die in a level crossing collision and 3.4 times more likely to be seriously injured than in a crash on the road. A collision between a fully loaded train and a heavy vehicle at a level crossing has the potential to be catastrophic, particularly if it involves a passenger train and/or bus or coach.

While these events are relatively rare, and have a low probability, an event of this type could result in one of the greatest losses of life and serious trauma from an incident on the land transport system.

The Transport Accident Investigation Commission (“TAIC”) has placed level crossings on its Watchlist. TAIC has identified more than 250 locations around New Zealand where some heavy vehicles are unable to clear a level crossing due to “short stacking”. At these level crossings there is not enough space between the adjacent road intersection and the railway tracks for the vehicle to safely exit the level crossing without going through the intersection.

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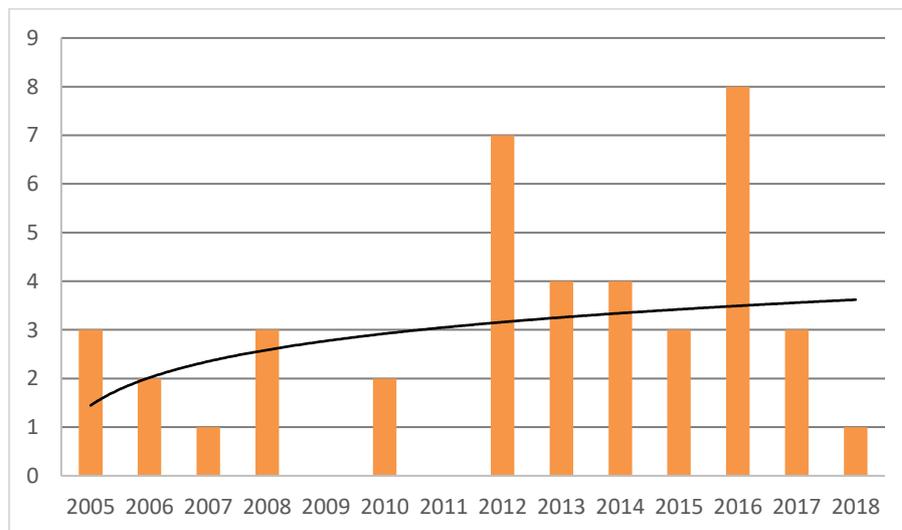
Heavy vehicles

Since 2010, there have been more than 23 collisions between trains and heavy vehicles in New Zealand. Each and every collision has a traumatic impact not just on the victims and their friends and families, but also the wider community and the rail staff involved.

TrackSAFE NZ has recently launched a new heavy vehicle research project to inform the development of a new safety campaign targeted at heavy vehicle drivers. The project is collaborative, involving the NZ Transport Agency, KiwiRail and the Road Transport Forum.

Pedestrian safety

In recent years there has been an increasing trend in incidents involving pedestrians and cyclists, particularly at urban level crossings. Complacency and distractions like cellphones and headphones mean that people often don't consciously check for trains.



Source: KiwiRail Incident Reporting Investigation System

Auckland Transport and KiwiRail are installing automatic safety swing gates to provide an added form of protection to pedestrians crossing railway level crossings. These gates are activated by a sensor on the tracks, and have a safety zone with an emergency exit gate. When a train approaches these pedestrian level crossings, the bells sound, red lights flash on and off and the crossing gates close automatically.

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Rail Safety Week Focus

This year's Rail Safety Week campaign has been developed to resonate with two key risk audiences:

1. younger pedestrians in urban/metropolitan areas; and
2. motorists (predominantly males 40-65) in rural areas.

Distraction and complacency are the key behaviours that the campaign aims to address.

The increasing use of technology along with the rollout of electric trains in Auckland and Wellington, and more frequent services particularly in Auckland and Wellington, increases the risk of incidents and we need to encourage pedestrians to stay alert and focused.

Rural drivers are being encouraged not to be complacent, as complacency is one of the known key contributing factors to collisions. People expect they won't encounter a train because they may only see two a week. Messages are to stay focused every time someone approaches a level crossing, and to always expect trains at any time, from either direction

Theme

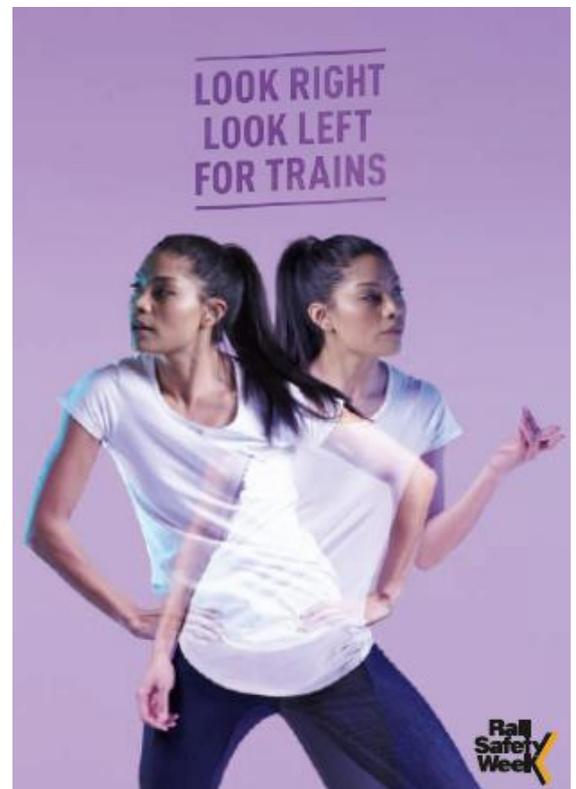
Look Right, Look Left, For Trains Whatever your look, always look for trains

Looking for trains is a simple action but it is not being done every time people cross railway tracks.

This year's campaign finds a simple way to remind people to look for trains, whenever they're near a railway crossing. The messages are intended to stick in people's minds and prompt them in the moment to put this action into practice.

Rail Safety Week 2018 leads with the premise that no matter how you look for trains, the important thing is that you do look, and you do look properly and carefully.

Creatively, the concept is a celebration of the unique ways that a person can look for trains – reminding people in the moment to embrace their own unique way of looking out for trains.



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For some people, it might involve a smooth head turn. For someone else, a rapid neck swivel or darting eyes. How a person looks is up to them.

The important thing is to always **Look Right, Look Left, for Trains.**”

Campaign materials

The campaign involves ongoing print, digital and radio advertising, roadside billboards, school visits and a range of community engagement activities, as well as a suite of associated campaign material to help other individuals and organisations promote Rail Safety Week. These materials will be available to download from the TrackSAFE NZ website.

- National media release
- Posters
- Flyers
- Signage
- Web banners and digital advertising (using geo-targeting)
- Radio advertisements
- Social media videos
- Billboards
- Phone wallets
- Badges



Events

This year's Rail Safety Week launch is being hosted by Auckland Transport at Newmarket Train Station. Representatives from the Matthes family will be attending the event and a representative will speak. Keenan Matthes, 16, was killed in Ranui, West Auckland in April 2017 while out running.

A number of events are also being held throughout New Zealand to mark Rail Safety Week including awareness events at platforms/level crossings at Auckland's Britomart and Newmarket train stations, Wellington Rail Station and stations in Tawa, Palmerston North, Feilding and Wanganui.

An event will be held in Wellington to formally commission new pedestrian automatic gates in the suburb of Naenae in Lower Hutt.

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Key safety messages for pedestrians

- Only ever cross the railway at a formed pedestrian crossing or at a designated overpass or underpass.
- It is illegal to cross the railway tracks at any point other than an official pedestrian crossing. Keep to the path and always stop, look and listen for trains.
- Remember to:
 - obey the warning signs at the crossing
 - look for trains both ways up and down the tracks
 - only cross if you are sure there are no trains in sight
 - if lights are flashing or bells ringing, this means a train is approaching
 - if there is a pedestrian swing gate, wait until the gate opens fully before entering the crossing
- With modern technology it may be hard to hear a train approaching.
- Always remove your Ipod or mp3 player when near railway tracks and never talk on a cellphone while around railway tracks.
- If a train has passed always check that a train is not coming in the opposite direction. Two tracks means there might be a second train.
- Not all pedestrian crossings have lights and bells: at crossings with only signs it is important to always stop and look both ways for trains. Wait until the train has passed, and check again both ways before crossing the tracks.
- Stay alert, to stay safe!

Key safety messages for motorists

- Take extreme care when driving over a railway level crossing.
- Obey the warning signs and look carefully in both directions for trains. Listen, be aware and pay careful attention to your surroundings. Always ensure there is space on the other side of the crossing for your vehicle.
- When approaching a level crossing where lights and bells are operating, or barrier arms are lowered or have started to come down, you must:
 - stop your car
 - wait for the train to pass
 - wait for the lights to stop flashing and the barrier arms to lift before entering the crossing
- At level crossings controlled by either 'give way' or stop signs alone, you must:
 - slow down, and be prepared to stop
 - if there is a 'Stop' sign, you must stop your vehicle completely look both ways up and down the tracks to check the railway lines are clear

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- wait for any approaching train to pass before crossing and where there is more than one track, look again for trains coming in the opposite direction. Cross only when the railway lines are clear of trains
- Never overtake a vehicle that has stopped for a train or try to race a train over the crossing - trains are usually travelling faster than you think.
- Some vehicles (such as those carrying dangerous goods) are legally required to stop at a level crossing, unless automatic alarms are installed - always take care when traveling behind these vehicles.