SURVEY SAFETY TIP # 15

RAILROAD SAFETY

Railroad Safety Training is required of all survey personnel prior to working within twenty feet of a railroad track. Specific training is usually provided by the different organizations. Flag-persons are often required and will be provided by the railroad. Railroad training is usually valid for one year.

General Safety Rules
When working in railroad right of ways

- Orange safety vests must be worn at all times
- Hard hats are required at all times
- Long pants are required at all times
- Approved footwear is required at all times
- The color red should not be used. Avoid red vests or clothing, red markers, paint and lights
- Support steel tapes across rails. Tapes across both rails may activate signals
- Never crawl under or walk between stopped cars

FACTS AND SAFETY TIPS

- Freight trains do not travel on a set schedule, schedules for passenger trains change. Always expect a train at every rail intersection
- Trains have the right of way 100% of the time over ambulances, fire engines, police and pedestrians
- If there are rails on the railroad ties assume the tracks are in use
- A train may extend three feet or more outside the steel rail. The safety zone for pedestrians is well beyond the rail itself
- Trains cannot stop quickly. A 100 car freight train traveling at 55 mph will need more than a mile to stop
- Trains can move in either direction at any time. They are sometimes pushed by a locomotive instead of pulled
- Modern trains are quieter than ever, with no “clackety-ckack”
- Cross only at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings