Trains and the tracks they run on are a vibrant and important part of our community. Throughout this presentation and supplemental activities, students will learn:

- Key facts about how trains move.
- How to Identify and read signs at crossings.
- What is trespassing and how to avoid trespassing.
- How to Identify and dispel common myths about track safety.
- What to do if there is an emergency near a train or train track.
- Where to find more information about Operation Lifesaver.
Anytime is Train Time

Trains do not run on a set schedule.

Trains can run in either direction.

Trains can run on any track—even if you haven’t seen one there in a while!

Explain to students that any time is train time. Trains may move like a car, but they operate in very different ways.

• Trains can come at any time, in any direction!
• Trains don’t have LANES... they can go either way on the track
  • Trains travel on any track at any time in either direction.
• Trains run on any track, even if you haven’t seen one in a while!

**Introduction Activity: Fact or Fantasy?**
Let students talk about steering wheels and if they know how they work. Encourage students to consider alternative forms of steering, such as the handlebars of their bike or the gears of a plane.

Corresponding Activity: #1 How does a train move?
Use this slide to describe the rules by which a train moves.

The top right image is of the **inside** of a locomotive. Point out to students that there is NO steering wheel.
Trains cannot stop quickly.

It can take a train going 55 miles per hour a mile or more to stop.

Once a train sees you or your vehicle, it is often too late!

Just like when a driver stops the car, a train has brakes that will bring it to a full and complete stop. However, unlike in a car or even a school bus, it takes a long time for a train to come to a full and complete stop—a full mile or more.

A note: Stopping distance can be difficult to understand, but students can grasp at any age that it takes a train a long time to come to a full stop.
What is trespassing?

Entering on someone’s land or property WITHOUT their permission

Trespassing near tracks is very dangerous.
What does Trespassing look like?

1. WALKING Near trains or train tracks.
2. BIKING on or near the tracks
3. CROSSING anywhere other than a designated crossing.

Property around train tracks is called **Railroad right of way** and it belongs to the railroads.

These are some examples of trespassing (refer to 1-3 on this slide)

Additionally:
- Bike wheels and spokes can often get stuck in and around track.
- If you’re riding your bike and need to cross, get off of your bicycle, look both ways down the tracks and listen closely. If no train is coming, walk your bike across the tracks.
- When you need to cross over the tracks, it’s important to do it only where signs tell you that it is safe!
Sometimes trespassing doesn’t look like what you might think. These are all examples of trespassing. Looking at these images, can you think of some of the dangers these people might experience?
Can you see?
• Check down the track in BOTH DIRECTIONS.

Can you hear?
• Trains do not always have to blow their horns. Be sure that you are aware a train may be near even without a horn blowing
• Trains are quieter and moving faster than you think!

Are you paying attention to warning signs?

When you need to cross, and it’s time to do so, be sure that you are aware of all your surroundings.

You can go back to the slide before, discussing what you might see or hear at a crosswalk.
As you approach a railroad crossing, you will see the **Advance Warning Sign** and **Crossbuck**.
Where should I cross?

This pedestrian is crossing at a designated crossing. It doesn’t look like a sidewalk, but there is a designated place for her.

What are some things in the environment that this pedestrian should pay attention to in order to cross? (Look both ways, listen out)
Where should I cross?

How about here?

What are some things in this environment that you should pay attention to in order to cross safely?

Point out that there are no sidewalks at this crossing. In order to cross safely, a pedestrian will need to cross on the street. In this case, they should always:
1. Look behind and ahead for traffic (cars/motorized vehicles)
2. Look down the tracks in both directions.
3. Cross quickly to the other side, moving way from the tracks.
Where should I cross?

How about here?

What are some things in the environment that you should pay attention to in order to cross safely?
This is an example the signs and signals you might see at an active crossing: a crossing with lights, sounds, and a physical barrier (gate).

Often on farms and rural land, we see passive crossings: a sign indicating a railroad crossing (crossbuck) and an Emergency Notification System Sign.

Note that the red arrows highlight signs you will always see.

Supplemental Activity #3: Know the Signs
What if I have an emergency near the train tracks?

Emergencies can look like:
1. Falling or getting hurt near a track.
2. Noticing that a signal isn’t working.
3. Noticing there is something on or near the track.

It’s always a good idea to call!
This is an **Emergency Notification System Sign** (we call it an ENS or “Blue and White”)

If you ever have an emergency—or think that there is an emergency near the trains or train tracks—look for this sign.

Each sign at **every crossing** is different; the 800-number and crossing ID are unique at every crossing!
**How to get help in an emergency:**

| GET OUT! | GET OUT! GET AWAY! If the vehicle you are in gets stuck or stalls at a crossing, get out and go away immediately! |
| LOOK | LOOK for the Blue and White ENS Sign |
| CALL | Call the 800-number listed on the sign |
| GIVE | GIVE the Crossing ID Number to the dispatcher |

No ENS sign? Call 911!

Review the steps of what to do in an emergency.

Remind participants that if they are unsure of how to use the sign that they can always call 911 and be connected with help.
Obey all warning devices at railroad grade crossings.

In the U.S., a person or vehicle is hit by a train every 3 hours.

Trains are quieter and faster than you think — only trains belong on the tracks.

The average freight train traveling 55 miles per hour can take a mile or more to stop — the length of 18 football fields.
You can show your participants the PSA to review what they have learned through this presentation. Share the key reminders listed in the closing:

1. Identify the signs you see at a crossing: Crossbuck, Advance Warning, ENS Sign
2. Know what to do in an emergency: Locate the ENS Sign, Call and report!
3. Identify safe places to cross as a pedestrian, or on a bicycle.
4. Name key safety points:
   1. Trains run on any track, in any direction, at any time.
   2. You might not hear a train coming: they are quieter and faster than you think.
   3. Trains do not have a steering wheel and cannot swerve, they can only run on tracks.
   4. Trespassing is dangerous and illegal.
   5. See Tracks? Think Trains!