



RAIL SAFETY AND YOU

Safety tips for
Northstar Line
Commuter Rail service

Northstar Commuter Rail trains
are a great way to get around.

**KEEP IT SAFE, STAY BACK
AND STAY ALIVE.**

For more safety tips, visit
metrotransit.org or Operation
Lifesaver at oli.org



Safety only takes a second

Northstar Commuter Rail service begins in late 2009 between Big Lake and downtown Minneapolis. Even before service begins, test trains will be traveling along the tracks. It's not too soon to make sure you're aware of the facts about rail safety.

It's easy to see why rail safety is so important: ***The impact of a train to a car is similar to the impact of a car to a can of soda. Locomotives alone weigh more than 200 tons.***

Stay safe by obeying warning signs, paying attention and using common sense around trains and railroad tracks.

612-373-3333
metrotransit.org



Safety near commuter rail stations

- Remember that Northstar commuter rail stations will not be open for service until late 2009. Until then, stay clear.
- Trains can come on any track, at any time, from either direction. Never assume you know when and where to expect a train.
- Cross rail tracks only at clearly marked and designated crossings, and look both ways for trains before crossing.
- Slow down and be alert near rail stations. Watch for trains, pedestrians, bicyclists, buses and cars.
- Freight trains do not stop and may not slow down at rail stations. These trains travel at up to 80 mph so stay in the middle of the rail station platform at all times.

Warning Signals

- Listen for train horns and warning bells notifying you that a train is approaching.
- Always obey warning signs and sounds. Headphones can block out these warnings.
- Northstar trains can operate in both directions, sometimes with a passenger car on the front end. Do not assume the train is moving away from you if you don't see a locomotive.
- White headlights indicate a train is coming toward you; red or no taillights mean a train is moving away from you.
- Look both ways before crossing rail tracks at designated crossings.
- Environmental noise can muffle the sound of an approaching train, so always stay alert around tracks and stations.

Safety near the tracks

- Cross the tracks only at clearly marked and designated crossings.
- Tracks have powerful switches that can move at any time. Never walk on the tracks and stay away from track switches and rail equipment.
- Never try to beat a train through a crossing. Commuter and freight trains can take up to a mile to stop. If gate arms are going down, stop. If lights are flashing, stop.
- Never go around lowered gates at rail track crossings. This applies to pedestrians as well as drivers. Trains have right of way over all other forms of transportation.
- Trains may travel directly behind each other, or pass on adjacent tracks that may not be visible to you. Stay alert for passing trains at all times.
- Always look both ways, listen for warning signals and obey warning signs before proceeding through designated track crossings.
- No foreign objects. Placing objects on the tracks may cause trains to derail, endangering everyone on board and anyone nearby. Objects on the tracks may also shoot out from under the train, endangering bystanders.