

## Quick Take

### What:

Regional Freight Safety Initiatives are developed to create a safer environment for bicyclists and pedestrians, commuters, first responders, commercial motor vehicle operators and anyone else traveling on North Texas roadways.

### Significance:

Trucks and freight trains take longer to stop than passenger vehicles, making it important for motorists to use caution when encountering them.

### By the Numbers:

**486+**

The number of miles of truck lane restrictions in Dallas-Fort Worth. Thirty-four municipalities in the region have such restrictions. Following these rules can make the roads safer for all drivers.

## Driver Awareness is Key to Freight Safety

### Highway Safety

North Texas sees an enormous volume of freight transported every day by semi-trucks and other commercial motor vehicles, supplying gasoline, medical supplies, building materials, groceries and more. If you own it, a truck probably moved it at some point.

In the past five years, there have been an average of 151 truck-involved crashes per month in North Texas. The number of crashes has increased each of those years. By understanding the importance of proper driving near and around trucks, navigating traffic will be safer, faster and more efficient.

As the region's population continues to grow and freight traffic increases to supply the rising demand of consumer product deliveries, the potential for roadway incidents between automobiles and commercial motor vehicles increases. Many passenger vehicle drivers do not realize that these vehicles have "blind spots," where the truck driver cannot see passing vehicles. Heavy-duty vehicles can be difficult to maneuver and the length of time needed to stop is about 40 percent greater than cars.

Truck drivers can also help make the roads safer by following the truck lane restrictions, which limit the lanes used by trucks on certain freeway corridors throughout the region.

In these areas, trucks with three or more axles are prohibited from using the inside left lane, except when passing traffic. This eases congestion and reduces the number of truck-related crashes on the freeways. Learn more at [www.FreightNTX.org](http://www.FreightNTX.org)



*Passenger cars should stay out of trucks' blind spots, giving them adequate room to maneuver on the road. Trucks can take up to 40 percent longer to stop.*

## Safe Driving Habits

### Passenger Vehicle Drivers

- Large trucks and buses have blind spots around the front, back and sides of their vehicles.
- If you can't see the driver in the truck's side mirror, assume that the driver can't see you.
- It is dangerous to "cut off" a truck. If you move in quickly from either side, you are likely to be in a blind spot, and the driver may not see you in time. Even if you are visible, the truck may not be able to slow quickly enough to avoid a crash.

### Truck Drivers

- The Dallas-Fort Worth region has over 486 miles of truck lane restrictions that improve the safe and efficient movement of freight.
- Thirty-four municipalities in the DFW area have truck lane restrictions.

### Rail Safety

North Texas has a vast rail network that supports three major freight railroads, two short-line railroads, Amtrak and light and commuter rail. This creates large train volumes and provides the region with goods movement and public transportation services.

Nationally, about every three hours, a person or vehicle is hit by a train. NCTCOG is working with Operation Lifesaver to improve safety near railroad tracks. Railroad tracks are private property and it is illegal to be on or near them except at crossings. It is important for North Texans to follow proper safety precautions near the region's 2,900 at-grade crossings and remember the train always has the right-of-way.

Do not assume you can hear a train coming. Modern locomotives are much quieter than people think and there are quiet zones established at many of the regional crossings. This means as a train approaches a crossing, it is not required to blow its horn. Always assume a train is coming when approaching a crossing and look both ways.

Trains travel much faster than they appear to and can take up to a mile to stop. Do not try to outrun a train.

Since 2000, when there were 67 incidents in North Texas, the number of incidents has been trending downward. In 2017, there were only 32 incidents recorded. To continue this important safety trend, drivers and pedestrians should heed safety signals and warnings.

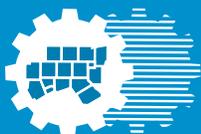
Learn more at [www.FreightNTX.org](http://www.FreightNTX.org)



*Trains can take up to a mile to stop. Always exercise caution around tracks and never try to beat a train.*

### Safe Rail Crossing Habits

- **Always expect a train.** Look both ways, twice, when you approach a rail crossing.
- **Don't race a train.** There's never a winner in these situations. Just stop and wait for the train to pass.
- **Know the signs.** Public rail crossings are marked with different kinds of warning signs.
- **Don't take the chance of getting stuck on a track if you see traffic is stopped on the other side.** Stop at least 15 feet from the track. If you won't fit, don't commit.
- **Tracks, trains, railroad equipment and the areas immediately surrounding tracks are private property.** Cross a train track only at a designated crossing. It's the only safe and legal place to do so. Anything else is trespassing and could prove fatal.



### North Central Texas Council of Governments

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