



# RAIL SAFETY BULLETIN

## TIPS WHEN PLOWING AT RAILROAD CROSSINGS



### Plowing

Plowing too close to railroad crossing surfaces can dislodge ties and damage rails, which can lead to derailments and costly repair and replacement expenses.



### Raise Blades

Reduce snowplow pressure and raise blades slightly over tracks to avoid catching rails or gouging surface materials with snowplow blades.



### Salt and Gravel

Applying salt and gravel on roadway approaches to railroad crossings will assist motorists in maintaining adequate stopping distances. Also be sure to clear off railroad pavement markings on roadway approaches.



### Salt and Chemicals

When salt and chemicals are applied on or near railroad crossings, railroad ballast can become contaminated, resulting in false activations of the automatic warning devices. Restrict application when possible.



### Avoid Piling

Snow should not be piled in front of railroad crossing warning devices. This can block the view of approaching trains and interfere with proper operation of gate mechanisms.



### Reduce Speeds

Reduce speed when plowing through railroad crossings. The force and impact of plowed snow can damage or misalign automatic warning devices and signs.



### Bungalows/Houses

Snow should not be piled in front of railroad bungalows/houses or into access roads parallel and adjacent to tracks (these are used to access property and equipment).



### Snow Piles

Finally, do not leave piled snow on tracks! This can cause derailments and damage to train equipment.