Visual 26 – No Trespassing

- Railroad tracks are private property. People who do not have permission to be on railroad property are trespassing.

- Property closely surrounding the tracks is called the railroad right-of-way. It also belongs to the railroad and not only is it dangerous, but it's also illegal to be there.

- Many locations of railroad property are posted with different types of “No Trespassing” signs. They all mean “Stay Off and Stay Away”. Even if a sign is not posted, it is still dangerous and illegal to be on the property without permission.

- Thousands of people have made fatal mistakes on railroad property. Some did not expect a train; some thought it would be on the other track; some thought it was moving slower; some thought it could stop for them; some thought it would make more noise; and some stood too close.

- Remember – the only sure way to be safe is to “Stay Off! Stay Away! Stay Alive!”

Talking Points for Grades 3 – 5

- “No Trespassing” signs are posted at different locations to alert people of real danger.

- Train cars, tracks and the land that the tracks are on are the private property of the railroad

- Trespassing on railroad property can cause serious injury and even death.

- Remember – the only sure way to be safe is Stay Off! Stay Away! Stay Alive!
Jogging, four-wheeling, water sports and riding bikes are all healthy recreational activities – but not when you mix them with railroad tracks.

What is the danger? These people are all concentrating only on their activities – they’re not thinking about a train coming.

Train crews are not expecting people to be on or near the track where they don’t belong. The engineer may not be able to sound a warning in time, or more importantly, stop in time.

Many joggers run while listening to music, talking on phones or texting and never hear the train.

Motorized vehicles, like snowmobiles and four-wheelers, also drown out the sound of the train and locomotive horn. Many people fail to hear the warning until it is too late.

Many people mistakenly think the train can stop for them, but it takes a long time for the engineer to stop a train, and most often too late to stop in time.

Some people think the train coming up behind them is on another track. The converging track makes it difficult to know which track the train is on. They do not know that trains run on any track, in any direction, at any time.

Too many people choose to ignore the fact that railroad tracks are private property and they end up paying for that mistake with their lives.

Talking Points for Grades 3 - 5

Refer to the above talking points.
Visual 28 – Separated Pedestrian Crossings

- When you come up to tracks you may have choices on how to get across the tracks. Look for pedestrian overpasses or underpasses which would keep you safe from train traffic.

- Over the years, engineering improvements have helped eliminate crashes between trains and vehicles and between trains and pedestrians.

- Separated crossings, such as railroad overpasses over busy roadways, eliminate collisions by keeping trains and pedestrians apart.

- Pedestrian overpasses help keep people away from trains.

- Always use crossings designed for your safety.

- The only safe place to cross the tracks is at designated roadways, walkways, underpasses or bridges.

Talking Points for Grades 3 - 5

Refer to the above talking points.
Visual 29 – Pedestrian Crossings

- This visual shows where pedestrians should cross the tracks.
- One of these pictures shows a pedestrian crossing that is equipped with a small pedestrian gates. They activate when a train is approaching, alerting pedestrians to stop for all trains.
- The other picture shows a separate sidewalk for pedestrians to use to keep them out of the street while crossing the tracks. Pedestrian should exercise caution when crossing railroad tracks.
- Remember – trains always have the right-of-way.
- If there is no sidewalk going across the tracks, find a designated crossing (where cars cross) and walks across the tracks there. If there are no designated crossings, then you should not be there.

Talking Points for Grades 3 - 5

Refer to the above talking points.
Visual 30 – Items on Rail

- Some people like to put objects on the rails in front of a train to see what will happen. Most of them do not realize the danger or harm this activity creates.
- Besides being illegal, it can be deadly for people standing nearby and for the train crew.
- People have been struck by trains while placing objects on the rails. They did not get out of the way or were hit by a train on another track.
- Small objects, like coins, sometimes get flattened, but more often they get pinched by the wheel of the train and shoot out with deadly force.

Talking Points for Grades 3 - 5

Refer to the above talking points.
Many people use railroad bridges for various recreational purposes. Besides being illegal, they fail to see the danger.

The person in this picture had the option of using a safe designated walkway on the left side of the bridge – instead he chose to take undue risk.

People have two choices when they are on a railroad bridge with a train approaching – jump or get hit by the train.

Even if some bridges have walkways for authorized personnel, trains overhang the tracks by at least 3 feet and loose straps hanging from rail cars may extend even further, leaving no room for a trespasser.

Railroad tunnels, like bridges are railroad property and are only designed for trains. There are no walkways and you cannot move fast enough to get out of the way of a train.

When a train is in a tunnel there is not enough clearance from the side of the train to the walls of the tunnel for a person to safely fit.

Remember, by the time the engineer sees you and applies the train’s brakes, the train will not be able to stop in time.

Stay out of railroad tunnels and away from railroad bridges; it is dangerous and illegal.

Talking Points for Grades 3 - 5

Refer to the above talking points.
Visual 33 – Playing On Rail Cars

- Playing on rail cars may look like fun, but it has caused many severe injuries and deaths. Besides being dangerous, you are trespassing, and therefore, it is illegal.

- When the train starts to move, the rail cars often jerk with enough force to cause you to lose your grip or balance, which can result in falling off the cars and being run over by the train.

- It is not worth the risk when the result can cost a person's arms, legs or life. Play it safe and Stay Off! Stay Away! Stay Alive!

Talking Points for Grades 3 - 5

Refer to the above talking points.
Visual 34 – Crawling Under Rail Cars

- Crawling under a train to save time or take a shortcut has cost many people their lives. It has also resulted in many others losing arms or legs.
- A train can move with a sudden jolt in either direction without warning.
- The train crew cannot see a person crawling under their train from the locomotive.
- Always go to a designated crossing to wait for the train to pass.

Talking Points for Grades 3 - 5

Refer to the above talking points.
Standing Too Close

- Standing too close to the railroad tracks is dangerous. Overhanging equipment can come loose hitting you and causing serious injuries or death.
- A train can create a strong wind and could cause you to lose your balance and fall if standing too close to the tracks.
- Keep a safe distance while waiting to cross the tracks at a public grade crossing. You should stand on the sidewalk or off the road behind the stop line if there is one, or behind the crossbuck sign or signal if there is no stop line. It can make the difference between life and death.

Talking Points for Grades 3 - 5

Refer to the above talking points.
Visual 36 – Walking On Tracks

- Walking is a healthy activity, but it is dangerous if you walk on railroad tracks.
- Many people believe they will always be able to hear a train coming. Some trains are silent and it could be difficult to hear them. People engaged in conversations, on a cell phone, listening to music, are even more distracted.
- Everyone needs to realize that trains can come on any track at any time.
- Walking, laying or sitting on the tracks can cause injuries and even death.
- Tracks are for trains, not for people; stay off. Walking on railroad tracks is dangerous and illegal.

Talking Points for Grades 3 – 5

Refer to the above talking points.