

Safety First: Photography Near Tracks & Trains

with

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Webinar with Professional Photographers of America
October 22, 2015



What is Operation Lifesaver?

- The nation's nonprofit rail safety education organization
- Mission: To end collisions, deaths and injuries where roadways cross train tracks, and on railroad rights-of-way.



A stunning statistic

About every **3 hours** in the United States, a person or vehicle is hit by a train.



OPERATION
LIFESAVER®
Look, Listen & Live



EVERY 3 HOURS
a person or vehicle is struck by a train.

LEARN MORE >>

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Another stunning statistic

Nearly **500 people killed**,
more than **400 people**
injured while trespassing
in 2014*



*preliminary data from Federal Railroad Administration



A concerning trend

Tragic results of the trend



5 people killed and injured taking photos on tracks in 2014



5 people killed taking photos and videos on tracks so far in 2015

Tragic results of the trend

PetaPixel June 2014

“A **photographer lost his life** last Saturday during a photo shoot on the Union Pacific U.S. Highway 50 overpass in Sedalia, MO when [a] train came around a blind corner and couldn’t stop in time to avoid hitting him.”

The Fresno Bee July 2015

“A **25-year-old male photographer** was photographing a model on some railroad tracks in Downtown Fresno when he was struck and **killed instantly** by a northbound train.”

Six Must-Know Facts About Photographing Around Tracks and Trains



TOUCHDOWN

**IT CAN TAKE THE LENGTH OF
18 FOOTBALL FIELDS
TO STOP A TRAIN.**

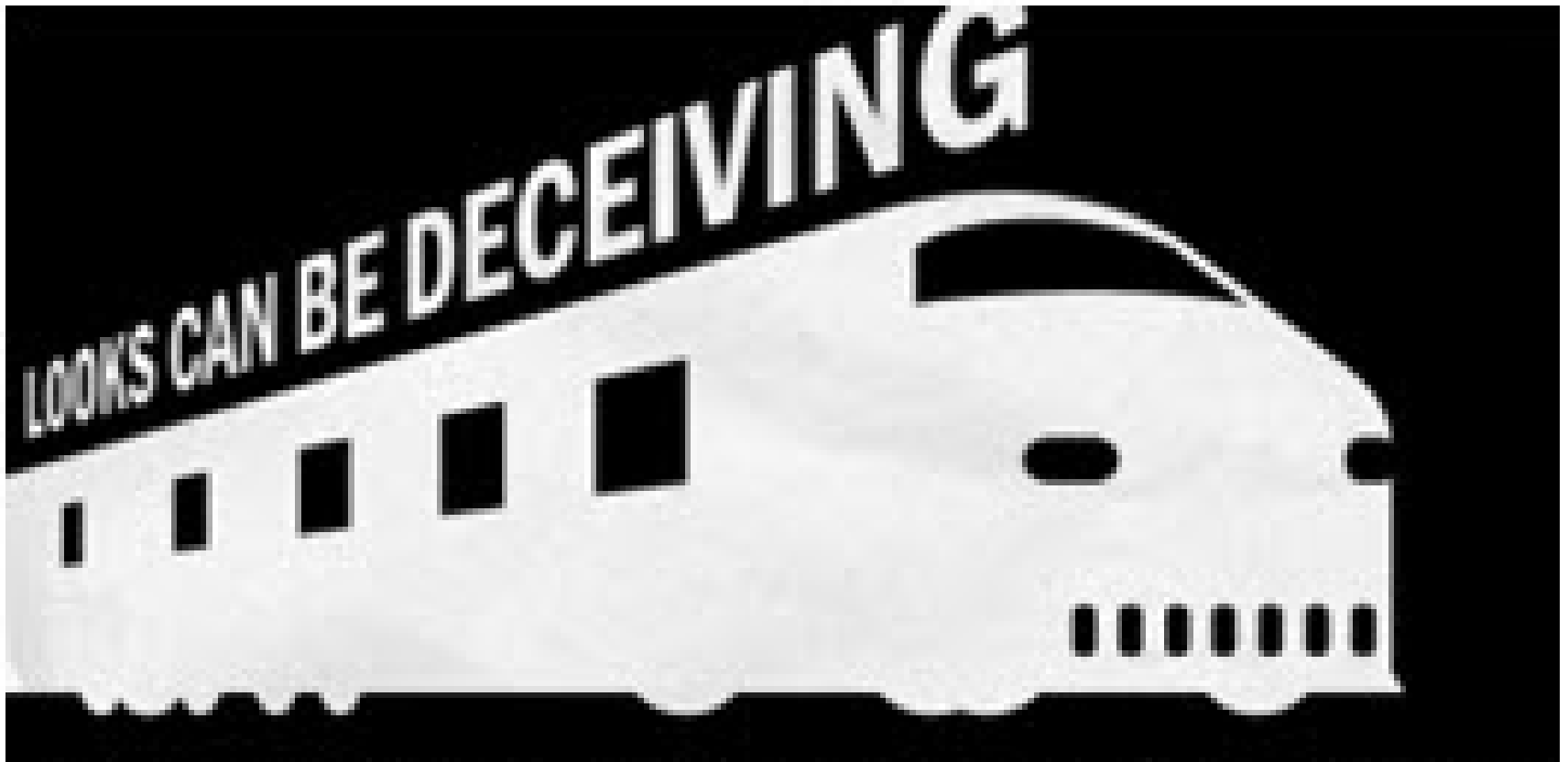
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See Tracks? Think Train!

TOUCHDOWN

See Tracks?
**THINK
TRAIN**

1. Trains can't stop quickly to avoid people or vehicles on the tracks.



- 2. An optical illusion makes it hard to determine a train's distance from you - and its speed.**



3. The average train overhangs the track by at least three feet.



4. Railroad tracks, trestles, yards and rights-of-way are private property, whether or not you see a No Trespassing sign.



5. No tracks should be assumed to be abandoned or inactive.

The Washington Post

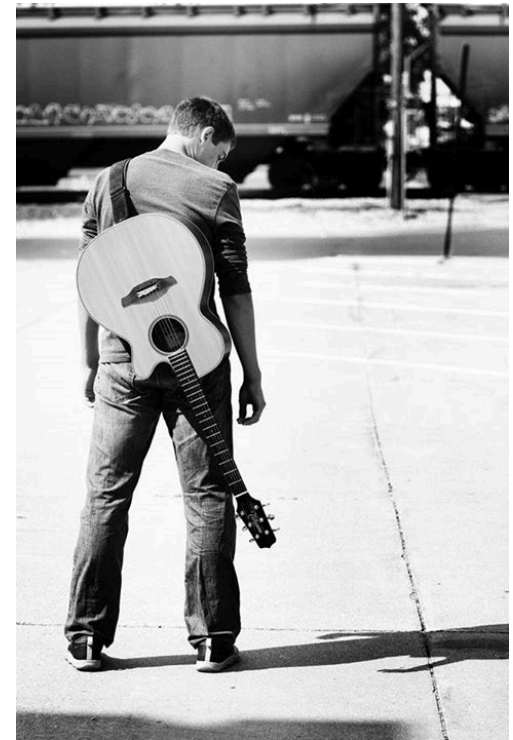


Natalie and Sarah go to Clarksburg High School, where they are honor roll students and play varsity field hockey, and where this year Sarah signed up for a photography class. One of her first assignments: Take a series of photos that would illustrate pushing forward in life. **The twins had been on the railroad tracks before and said in an interview that they felt they would be safe.**

- 6. People mimic your actions when they see your photos on the web or social media.**

What You Can Do – Stay Safe

- Find alternative locations for your photographs
 - Get creative about other scenic locations that don't endanger you and your clients
 - Find public property near a railroad that allows you to capture the track or train while staying safe



What You Can Do – Stay Safe

- Respect private property rights. Would you want another photographer using your studio without permission?
- If you are interested in a railroad setting, always contact the railroad company first. Some will accommodate requests or provide alternative safe locations to meet your needs.

What You Can Do – Spread the Word

- Share the #NoPhotosOnTrainTracks safety message with peers and colleagues through blogs, social media and direct conversation



What You Can Do – Spread the Word

- If posting photos that were taken safely on tracks, ALWAYS use a disclaimer to reinforce the message:
 - “These tracks were confirmed inactive by the railroad”
 - “These portraits were staged at a railroad museum”
 - “This photo was taken on safe public property adjacent to the railroad tracks”

Let's continue the conversation



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