

## **LIFESAVING TIPS FOR MEDIA WHEN WORKING AROUND TRAINS**

When your job takes you near the railroad tracks, these are a few tips that could save your life. Be aware of the potential danger when working near trains.

1. The safe distance from the nearest rail is at least 15 feet.\*
2. The average train overhangs the tracks by at least 3 feet; wider loads can stretch even further from the tracks.
3. Railroad tracks, trestles, yards, and rights-of-way are private property. Locomotive engineers are not expecting to see someone on the tracks. For your own safety and to avoid legal problems, contact the railroad if you want to work on railroad property (or call Operation Lifesaver to help you identify the railroad). You need authorization so the locomotive engineers will know someone is in the area.
4. Even with authorization you must stay off and away from the tracks to be safe. It takes a mile or more to stop a train. If an engineer can see you on the tracks, you are too close for the train to be stopped before hitting you.
5. Contact your state's Operation Lifesaver coordinator (see list of State Coordinators at Operation Lifesaver's web site: [www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org), or call 1-800-537-6224 for statistics and contact information.) Basic information about railroad safety and Operation Lifesaver materials are also available on the site.

\* However, if straps protecting heavy equipment come loose, you might want to be 25 feet back from a passing freight train.