Optical Illusions: How close is that train really?

Railroad construction is happening now, freight trains are running. Remember that fast, quiet test trains for SMART’s passenger rail service will start running soon.

Many people don’t know: It can take a mile or more for a train to stop after the brake is applied—that’s 18 football fields! By the time an engineer can see a trespasser or vehicle on the tracks, it is too late for the train to stop quickly enough to avoid a collision.

School is almost out—summer means we are all walking and biking more and enjoying outside activities. Remember to Be Track SMART, and share these safety tips with your whole family!

Train Your Brain

An optical illusion is when your eyes and your brain don’t agree. It is when what you think you see isn’t the way things really are.

At 55 miles per hour, a train travels about 81 feet EVERY SECOND!

Trains at a distance look smaller and further away than they really are. At a distance, it’s even hard to tell how fast they are moving. That’s why crossing only at Railroad Crossings is so important—lights and bells can alert you to an oncoming train and keep you safe.

Car 200 feet
School Bus 230 feet
Big Rig Truck 300 feet
Train 1 mile or more!

How long does it take each vehicle to stop?

Train is A-Comin’

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Are You Track SMART?

Help your friends and family learn how to be safe around rails and trains. Visit www.oli.org today.