

Rail Safety



Railways

Lots of children find trains fascinating but there are many dangers and some of those dangers are invisible.



Can you think of any reasons why railways or trains could be dangerous?

Electric Railways

More and more railways are becoming electrified. Electric railways allow a quieter and more reliable service and are better for the environment.

However, increased electric lines above railways means potentially more danger. The trains are powered by electricity carried through overhead power lines or a conductor rail, sometimes called the third rail.



Did You Know...?

The electric current that powers the railway is 100 times stronger than the current that powers your home.

"Electric train in Hadfield station" by [Raymond Knapman] is licensed under [CC BY-SA 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/)

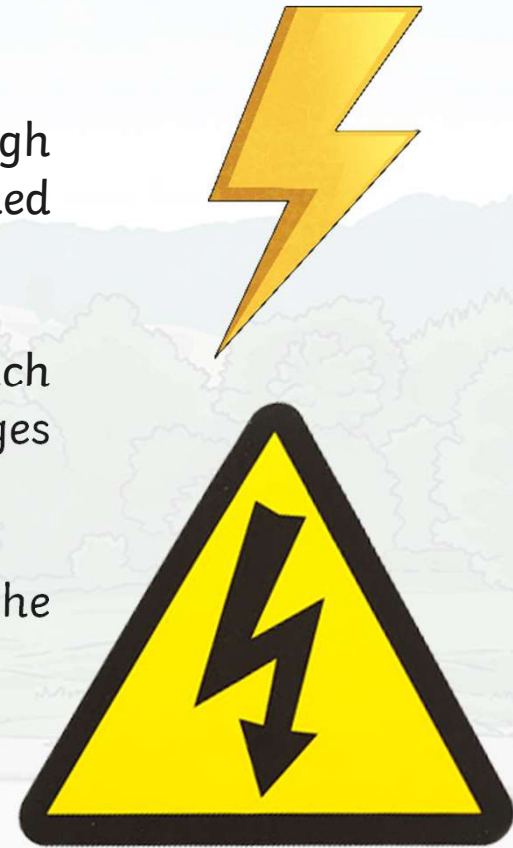
Danger

Overhead power lines and conductor rails (through which the electric current passes) are never switched off. That means it is **never** safe to touch them.

You can also be electrocuted even if you don't touch the lines; if you fly or dangle things from bridges near the power lines, you can be electrocuted too.

Electric cables run under the ground and beside the track of railway lines too.

Look out for the electricity danger warning sign.



Did You Know...?

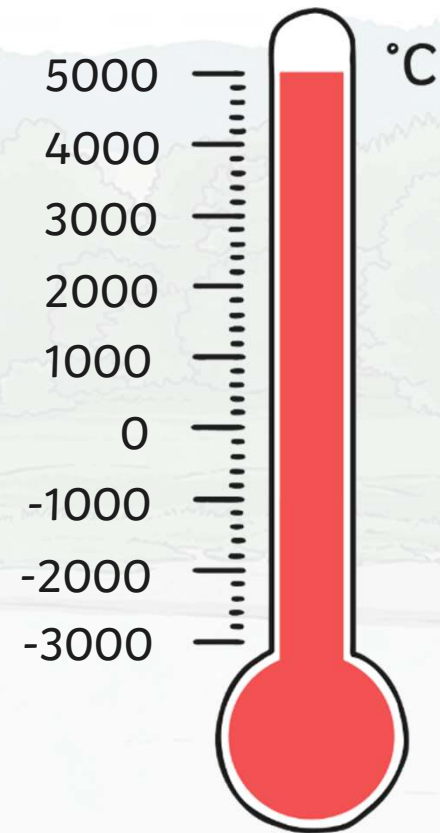
Electricity moves at the speed of light and can arc or jump up to three metres.

Danger

The temperature of an exposed overhead power line can reach up to 5,000°C.

9 out of 10 people die from being electrocuted by getting too close to overhead power lines, rather than direct contact.

Even if the railway is not electrified, **never** play on or near it; you are putting your life in danger.



Electric Trains: Dangers



Overhead power lines

Underground power cables

Conductor rails (sometimes called third rails)

Level Crossings

When using a level crossing, look out for these warnings:

- If the barriers are closed, an alarm sounds or the lights are flashing red, this means that a train is approaching.
- Do not attempt to cross the line. Every year, people are killed crossing when they shouldn't.
- Once the train has passed, you must wait for the red lights and the alarm to stop, before you cross.
- Always walk; don't run.
- If you are on a bicycle, get off and push it.



Did You Know...?

Trains travel the length of 20 football pitches before they stop, so they often cannot break in time, even if they see a person on the track.



Did You Know...?

It is against the law to trespass on a railway line and trespassers can be fined up to £1,000.

Train Travel

When waiting for a train, stand behind the yellow lines on the station platform. Trains can travel very fast and not all trains stop at every station. The wind current caused by passing trains can be very strong.

If you drop something onto the track, **do not** attempt to go onto the track to get it; let a member of railway staff know.

There is sometimes a large gap between the train and the platform. Take extra care when getting on and off the train.

Never try to stop a train door from closing by putting your hand between the doors.



"Oxford Station (Platform 3)" by [Martin Addison] is licensed under [CC BY-SA 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/)

Stay Safe

Follow these rules to stay safe around the railway:

- Never step onto the tracks. If you drop something, leave it.
- Never touch overhead power cables.
- Never dangle or fly anything from a bridge.
- If you need to cross the track, use a level crossing.
- Be aware of railway signs and warnings.
- Always stand behind the yellow line when waiting for a train.
- Mind the gap between the train and the platform.



