



Ministerstvo dopravy

Young trespassers, their knowledge and opinions

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Background

Every year, there is about 200 victims of train – person crashes at 9580 km of railways in the Czech Republic.

Although railway trespassing is risky and illegal, it is very common and socially acceptable behaviour in the CR, in some localities practically normal.

Sporadic prevention activities exist thanks to Czech Railways or Rail Safety Inspection, but generally the issue of safe behaviour in proximity of railway is not solved systematically and it is only marginally reflected in General Educational Programme; rather in relation to level crossings.



Projects

The issue of railway trespassing is the subject of research projects of CDV since 2014.

In 2017, the **survey** aimed to people living in proximity of railway and their attitudes to trespassing was carried out; the sample of **619** respondents included also age group 12 – 18 years. In the same time, **focus groups with 58** school children were organized.

Currently, the results of these research activities are used as basis for **educational films**.



Main results of the survey

Comparison of age groups proved that **young people have equal or even better theoretical knowledge** about illegality and risks of railway trespassing than others.

On the other hand, they **miss practical experience** with speed and noisiness of trains, and tend to **underrate the danger** at concrete locations.

Young people **use the illegal shortcuts more than others**, and some also use the tracks with adjacent sites as playground.



Main results of the focus groups

Children **do railway trespassing** to save time or for leisure activities.

They know that it is illegal, and to certain extent **they are aware of risks**, but still they **consider crossing relatively safe**.

Children try to be careful when crossing, but **often apply certain rooted wrong presumptions** (I can hear or see the train in time, I can rely on timetable...).

Principles of safe behaviour are not the part of school education even in localities with high occurrence of trespassing.

Peer pressure is important factor contributing to undesirable behaviour.

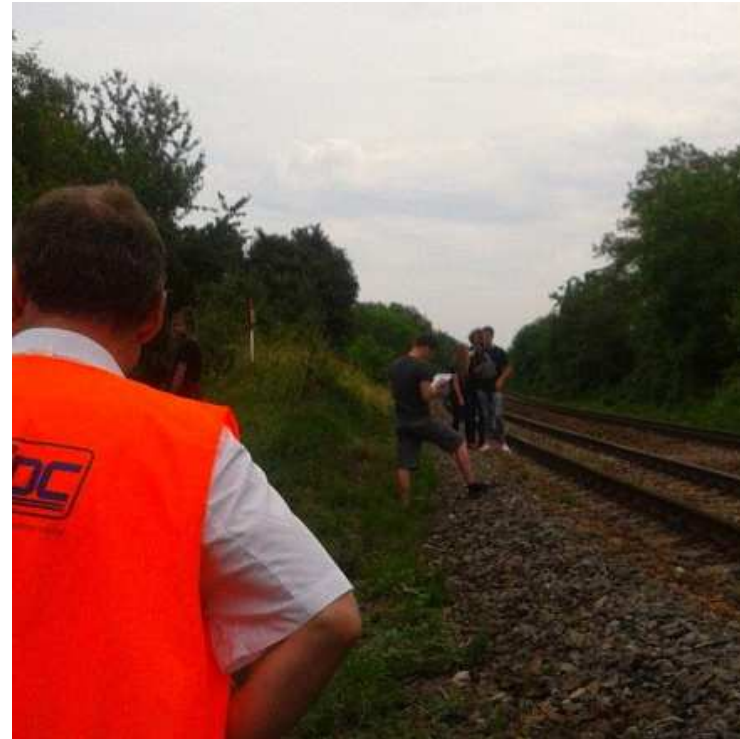


Educational films „Tracks belong to trains“

On the basis of these findings, and expert suggestions of the Rail Safety Inspection, short film is currently prepared in two versions by age of target groups (11 – 14 and 15 – 18).

Duration of each version is 2 – 3 minutes.

The film will be completed by 15th June, its effectiveness will be tested on selected groups of students.



Educational films „Tracks belong to trains“

Message of the films

- **Never enter the tracks apart from official crossings, even when your friends do it and encourage you! You are not sheep following its flock!** There is the risk of accident or at least police reprimand and penalty; and police informs also your parents.
- **Keep at least 2 metres from tracks; keep the distance from the edge of platforms; do not play in proximity of tracks!** There is the risk of fall, dragging by train.
- **Train might be audible only from close proximity** and then it is too late; it **is faster** than it seems to be.



Educational films „Tracks belong to trains“

Message of the films

- **Train does not stop on the spot** and does not avoid you.
- Outside official crossing, you must concentrate more on the terrain; then you may overlook the train, or stumble, slip, fall, get hurt – you would not get out of tracks in time.
- While you concentrate on one train, **second train** might be approaching.
- **Be alert at level crossings!** Always respect warning lights, put off the earbuds when crossing, do not telephone, do not make selfies, pay 100 % attention!





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Thank you for your attention.

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