



International Level Crossing Awareness Day shines spotlight on safety



Friday, June 02, 2017
Cape Town Trains

International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD), and Metrorail has once again urged motorists to pay attention to signs and markings at crossings to ensure their safety at all times. ILCAD, which draws railway enthusiasts; road authorities; academics and more from around the world, aims to raise awareness of the risks associated with roadway-railway crossings.

The Metrorail network has 35 level crossings, most in the northern area, of which many are farm crossings. The most dangerous crossings are Military Road, Steenberg and Buttskop Blackheath.

The road traffic regulations governing crossings is predominantly governed by the principles contained in the South African Road Signs and Markings Act. It is important to stress that similar to traffic signals being out of order, the onus remains on motorists to comply with road signage such as stop signs and road markings. We advise motorists to always obey the rules of the road to ensure they are not needlessly exposed to

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ary indicators of safety at level crossings. The booms and/or attendants are additional barriers for trains that may be approaching. Metrorail will do everything within its power to ensure the safety of commuters, and prevent incidents.

tant safety tips when approaching a level crossing:

ehicles to cross railway lines at any time, except at a designated level crossing.

ains travelling in both directions.

til the warning signals or lights stop and the boom gates go up.

tes stay down and the warning lights keep flashing, it means there is another train coming, the opposite direction.

can see that the tracks are clear in both directions before crossing.

rams and strollers should always be pushed at right angles to the track so the wheels don't get

s, rollerblades or skateboards.

ver a level crossing.

a full vehicle length between your car and the one in front before you drive.

sibility. Train drivers cannot see clearly to the left or right of the tracks. They also cannot see objects on the tracks directly in front of the train.

range **R75,000 – R100,000** per annum to replace/repairs damaged booms

19 booms are damaged by errant motorists every year

vel crossings are **checked and tested** meticulously

crossings is predominantly **governed by** the principles contained in **South African Road Signs**

ngs comply fully with legal and statutory requirements. Some even **exceed legally required measures**

heir sirens and operate with their head lights on as **additional safety measures**

estrians should note that legally a **train has right of way** at road/rail level crossing intersections.

to bear in mind that trains operate on fixed infrastructure, they are **unable to take evasive** emergencies

ake up to **500 meters to stop** under emergency conditions

as such as flash lights and booms are **tested weekly** and operational observations done daily

crossing **signage and road surface fixtures** are inspected for vandalism and repairs **every 90**

documented in compliance to a **stringent safety management system**

artner in the regional cross-functional level crossing task team

crossings are **protected by lights and barriers**, the lights will start flashing 30 seconds before a train enters the level crossing intersection

0 seconds before the train enters the intersection and remain closed until the last carriage safely crosses the section. Lights continue to flash until the barrier lifts

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