



## February 2 — Beating the Train

**While waiting for a train, lights and sirens to stop. A contractor was sick of waiting and crossed the tracks to get to the time clock.**

**He took off, couldn't talk to him, everyone that was waiting shook their heads.**

While waiting for a train with lights and sirens active, a contractor chose to cross the tracks to get to the time clock instead of waiting.

**The lights flashed red, the sirens cried,  
But someone thought, "I'll beat this ride."  
A minute saved is not the win,  
When steel and speed come rushing in.**

Nothing was "wrong" with the system the warning devices were working exactly as designed. The hazard came from the decision to override them. Trains don't negotiate, slow down quickly, or care about schedules. Once someone steps onto the tracks, the margin for error disappears. What felt like a small delay turned into a life altering gamble.

This wasn't a lack of knowledge. It was a moment where urgency overpowered judgment..

### Hazards

- Struck by injury from moving rail equipment
- Fatality due to train impact
- Misjudging train speed or distance
- Secondary injuries from panic or slips while crossing
- Encouraging others to bypass warnings

### Stats

- Trains can take **over a mile to stop**, depending on speed and load
- Rail crossing incidents remain a leading cause of industrial fatalities
- Many train-related injuries involve pedestrians who believed they had "enough time"
- Warning systems are designed to activate with significant safety margins not early convenience

### Words of Wisdom

- A train always wins.
- Being late is survivable being hit isn't.

### Pause and Think

Waiting feels unproductive, especially when people are focused on time clocks, schedules, and deadlines. That pressure creates a false sense of urgency: *"I'll just slip through real quick."* But rail hazards don't operate on human timelines. The warning lights and sirens aren't suggestions they're the last line between routine work and irreversible consequences.

- What situations make us feel rushed enough to ignore warnings?
- What happens when one person breaks the rule and others follow?
- Is saving a minute worth losing control of the risk?