



Teachers' Notes

Consequences – Railway crime

The 'Consequences – Railway Crime' whiteboard resource provides a basis for you to discuss with your pupils the dangers and legal consequences of inappropriate behaviour on or near the railway tracks.

The resource includes images and press cuttings about real incidents. It links with the 'Get a Life' publications that can be ordered free of charge by visiting the Track Off website at: <http://www.trackoff.org/materials.html>. Some of the video clips in the Track Off Teaching Zone video bank (<http://www.teachingzone.org/videobank.htm>) can be downloaded to complement this resource.

1 The PowerPoint version of the resource is a short program with learning points and a quiz at the end of the program. The notes with the slides gives some basic information on which to base your discussion.

2 The Smart Notebook version of the resource allows you to:

- Import warning signs from the gallery
- Import the press cuttings from the gallery and add your own local stories
- Import quiz answers at the end of the program – you could create a multiple choice option

The notes for each page on which to base your discussion are as follows:

Page 1

Trains travel quickly, take up to 2 kilometres to stop and cannot swerve out of your way like a car. Always take notice of warning signs near the railway – warning sign 'Beware of Trains'.

Page 2

Taking a chance by misbehaving on the railway tracks can often have unpleasant consequences for young people's families and friends as well as themselves – see second definition of the word 'consequence'.

Page 3

Using the railway tracks as a short cut is dangerous. An express train travelling at top speed travels 2000 metres in 30 seconds?

Consequences: Death or serious injury

Page 4

Playing games on the railway is dangerous. Express trains take the length of 20 football pitches to stop when going at a top speed of 125 mph. Playing 'chicken' is especially dangerous (the youth in the CCTV was lucky to escape and was arrested minutes later because all his actions were followed by CCTV camera)

Consequences: Death or serious injury

Page 5

Activities such as train surfing can have life changing consequences.

Consequences: Death, serious injury, life-changing disability

Page 6

Hanging out in groups around the tracks can lead to drinking and danger – drink and railways don't mix.

The boys in the newspaper report had been drinking – the autopsy showed they had both drunk equivalent of over 4 pints of lager.

Consequences: Death or serious injury

Page 7

Electricity on the railways poses its own dangers. High voltage electricity at 25,000 volts passing through overhead live wires is never switched off and it can jump gaps of over 3 metres. The power is always there even if there are no trains running on the track at the time.

Consequences: Death or scarring from burns

Page 8

Some railway tracks are electrified by a live conductor rail with electricity at 750 volts. The live extra rail runs along the ground next to the tracks. The live rail looks like any other rails but rests on insulators as well as sleepers. At train stations and along the tracks signs warn you about the live extra rails.

Consequences: Death or serious scarring from burns

Page 9

Taking a chance at a closed railway crossing is a criminal offence but could prove fatal.

Consequences: A criminal record and up to £1,000 fine or death or serious injury

Page 10

Trespassing on to the railway tracks is a criminal offence with a maximum fine of £1000.

Consequences: A criminal record and a fine

Page 11

Endangering the safety of the public by throwing objects at trains or on the tracks is a serious criminal offence. The boy in the film still taken by a neighbour was traced through the colour of his school sweatshirt.

Consequences: A possible custodial sentence and criminal record

Page 12

Endangering the safety of the public by putting things on the tracks is a serious criminal offence. Even a small object can derail a train.

Consequences: A possible prison sentence and criminal record + the guilt of causing a serious accident. The youth mentioned in the press story received 3 years youth custody.

Page 13

Railway crime including criminal damage caused by graffiti costs the industry some £260million a year. Custodial sentences are now being given to persistent offenders.

In a recent case a dad had to pay £8,000 as a result of the graffiti damage caused by his two sons on the railway network.

Consequences: Fine or custodial sentence, criminal record, very angry parents!

Top Ten Quiz (assuming all facts given in the notes have been used in discussion)

1 In what time will an express train at top speed take to travel 2000 metres?

30 seconds

2 How many football pitches in length does it an express train at top speed to stop?

20

3 What was the injury the train surfer received?

Lost both legs

4 How much had the two 15 year olds drunk before they were killed?

4 pints of lager

5 What distance can electricity at 25,000 volts in the overhead live wires jump?

Over 3 metres

6 What's the electricity voltage of the live extra rail?

750 volts

7 What's the maximum fine for trespassing on the railway?

£1,000

8 There are two red lights on a level crossing warning sign. What's the colour of the third light?

Amber

9 What was the amount of compensation a dad had to pay as a result of the graffiti damage caused by his two sons on the railway network?

£8,000

10 What was the sentence the 15 year old got for attempting to derail the trains?

3 years youth custody

