Safety Advice

everyone home safe every day

Seasonal increases in trespass incidents over the summer period



Issued to: All line managers, safety professionals and accredited contractors

Ref: NRA26-08

Date of issue: 06/07/2026

Location: National

Contact: GroupSecurity@networkrail.co.uk

Overview

Every year over 19,000 trespass incidents occur across rail infrastructure. Last year 19 lives were tragically lost as a result of rail trespass.

Trespass is typically seasonal. Spikes in the number of trespass incidents occur at the start of British Summer Time (March/April) and peak during the school summer holidays (late July to early September). These seasonal peaks often involve children and young people, but also very often involve adults.

Trespass is linked to a number of risk taking and criminal behaviours such as such as theft, vandalism, anti-social behaviour but can also involve people who unintentionally put themselves at risk, such as to collect dropped belongings or because they are vulnerable.

Frontline teams play a critical role in preventing trespass. The following are tips to help reduce trespass incidents over the summer period and beyond.

Local action to help prevent trespass

- Be aware of your local trespass hotspots and the known underlying unsafe behaviours playing out at each location.
- Where possible, engage positively with the public, as visible staff presence is most likely to deter trespass.
- -Report graffiti, vandalism and other signs of repeated trespass such as flattened vegetation or iscarded litter (drugs paraphernalia, drinks cans, food wrappers etc) to your Route Crime Team.
- Practise lineside tidiness to reduce opportunities for theft.
- Secure access points, depots and other railway property when not in use.
- Report damaged fencing, broken locks poor lighting or obscured signage through your established maintenance reporting channels to encourage passengers and the public to stay in publicly accessible areas only.
- Encourage safeguarding training such as Samaritans, ‘Managing Suicidal Contacts’ to help those on the front line recognise and manage vulnerable presentations.

Part of our group of Safety Bulletins

Safety Alert | Safety Bulletin | Safety Advice | Shared Learning