

You vs. Train

Campaign Narrative

Hundreds of people each year unintentionally take on the railway and lose. The railway is full of hidden dangers. If you're not hit by an unexpected train, you'll be hit by the lethal current in the rails and power lines. You will be killed or left with catastrophic, life-changing injuries. And your friends and family will be left with the brutal consequences. Everyone loses against this opponent. Everyone loses when you step on the track.

The power running through overhead railway lines is 100 times stronger than your supply at home. Electricity is easily the most dangerous factor in stepping on the track – it's always switched on and nine out of ten people die when they're struck by it. Others are left with life-changing injuries, including burns and amputations. People affected talk about the serious emotional consequences they're left with. Electricity is often underestimated and the current in overhead electricity lines can jump, so you don't even need to touch the cables to be seriously injured.

You can't outrun a train. And even if you could, you wouldn't hear it coming, as today's trains almost silently reach speeds of 125mph. And they run 24 hours a day. So even if you think it's a 'quiet time', you can be hit by thousand tonne freight trains that run all night. Don't think that keeping to one side of the track will keep you safe. Trains are all wider than the rails. You're just as likely to trip over the train equipment and be dragged on to the track.

The electrified rail is probably the hardest danger to see. It looks just like an ordinary rail, but it carries 750 volts – enough to kill you. It's designed to send power to the train, but you are 70 per cent water and the perfect conductor for this electricity. You would get "stuck" to it as the current that flows through it will pull you in and not let go until the power is switched off. Nearly half of Britain's rail network is now electrified – and more than 30 per cent uses an electrified rail to power the train. The only way to avoid stepping on this hidden danger is to stay off the track.