

Staying safe in cane train season



**Sam is a Wilmar Sugar cane train.
His name stands for
“Safety Always Matters”.**

Sam knows how important it is for people – especially children – to stay safe around cane trains. He can help you remember how to keep safe during cane train season with his simple message:

**Stay safe and keep clear
when cane trains are near!**

**wilmar**

Cane trains like Sam play an important role in the sugar industry.

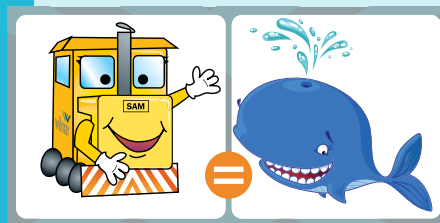
Their job is to transport empty cane bins out to cane railway sidings for harvesting crews to fill with cane. They then haul full cane bins back to the nearest sugar mill for the cane to be crushed.

Wilmar Sugar owns eight sugar mills in the Herbert, Burdekin, Proserpine and Plane Creek regions.

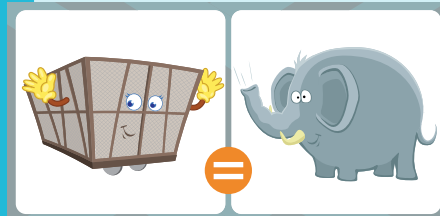
Because sugar mills operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the crushing season, cane trains also operate around the clock. The crushing season usually runs from June to November each year but can sometimes start earlier and finish later.

People who live in or visit a sugarcane-growing region should always be on the lookout for cane trains during the crushing season.

Did you know?



A locomotive can weigh up to 40 tonnes. That's the same as a humpback whale!



Cane bins come in different sizes but usually weigh about 4-6 tonnes each. That's about the same as an elephant!



That means a cane train hauling 200 full cane bins is the same as a humpback whale on wheels towing 200 rollerskating elephants.

Most people wouldn't want to be squashed by one rollerskating elephant, so imagine being squashed by 200! And because cane trains are so heavy, they take a very long time to stop – even though they travel relatively slowly.

A full locomotive travelling at 32km/h will take almost 1km to stop after its brakes are applied. That's why it's very important to stay off cane railway tracks and always give way to cane trains.

Cane railway crossings

Wilmar Sugar owns more than 1500km of cane railway track – more than the distance between Townsville and Brisbane.

There are more than 450 cane railway crossings across public roads in Wilmar Sugar's four milling regions and hundreds more across privately-owned roads on farms (known as occupational crossings).

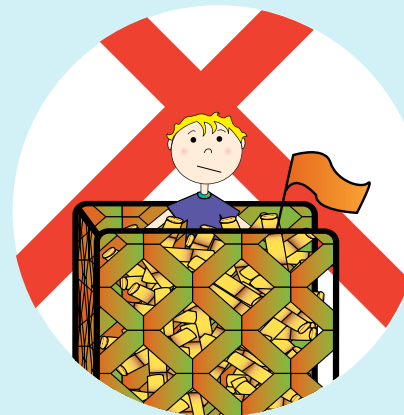
Some public cane railway crossings have lights which flash to warn when a cane train is approaching. These crossings are called **active crossings**.

Other public crossings don't have lights but still have signs warning people to stop and give way if a cane train is coming. These crossings are called **passive crossings**.

Putting safety first

There are some important rules to remember to keep safe around cane trains:

Keep off cane trains and their bins



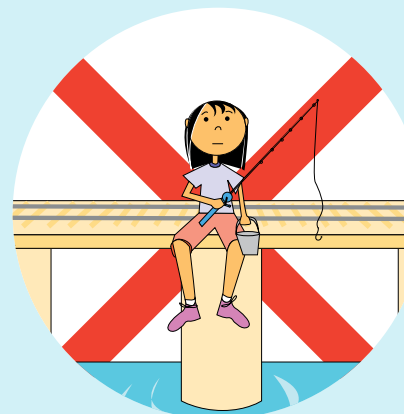
- ✗ Never ride on a moving cane train. Cane bins are meant to carry cane, not people.
- ✗ Never play between cane bins, even if they don't look like they're moving
- ✗ Never walk behind a cane train

Keep clear of cane railway tracks



- ✗ Never play on or near cane railway tracks
- ✗ Never ride bikes, motorbikes or quad bikes on or near cane railway tracks
- ✗ Never put objects – no matter how small – on cane railway tracks

Stay off cane railway bridges



- ✗ Never walk, ride or drive on cane railway bridges
- ✗ Never fish off a cane railway bridge
- ✗ Never jump off cane railway bridges

Stay safe at cane railway crossings



- ✓ Obey all signs and signals at cane railway crossings
- ✓ Always stop, look both ways and listen for any approaching cane trains before travelling through a cane railway crossing. Always give way to oncoming cane trains!
- ✗ Never try to race an approaching cane train through a cane railway crossing

Read the signs

There are lots of different signs on display in cane-growing regions to remind people to look out for cane trains. Here are what they look like and what they mean:



All traffic should slow down and look both ways at the railway crossing and give way to any approaching cane trains.

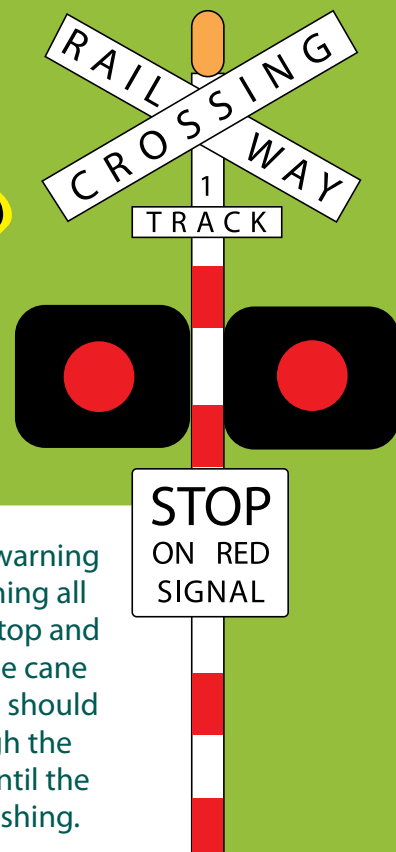


These signs appear at either end of all cane railway bridges. They mean that only authorised personnel are allowed in the area. People should not walk, drive or ride bicycles or quad bikes on the cane railway bridge.

A railway crossing is ahead.



A railway crossing with lights is ahead.



When the red warning lights are flashing all traffic should stop and give way to the cane train. No traffic should travel through the intersection until the lights stop flashing.