

“If I had One More Christmas Wish” From an Engineer’s Perspective – Safety on the Rails

I know Christmas is over but if I could have one extra wish...

PLEASE don't **EVER** stand on the ballast directly in front of me to get that awesome head-on shot. I almost dumped a train yesterday over it. Get a bigger lens, stand on the sidewalk, do something but don't make me try to decide if I have enough time to stop before I kill you. And don't wave and grin at me like I'm your buddy after you just scared the daylights out of me. I'm not amused.

I'm sure the guy in question 'knew' he was in the clear or could get out of the way in time but I don't.

I don't know you or what your up to. Are you going to cross? Are you going to slip? Are you the next suicide? The camera that seems obvious to you and that I guess is supposed to make everything you do ok...is mostly invisible to me until I'm right on top of you.

I'm not trying to pick on anyone or dump hate on fans in general but there's a reason so many railroad people can't stand rail-buffs. It only takes one to blow it for the vast majority who do it right.

I'm sure most of you know 'that guy' who can't resist peeing in the sandbox if that's what it takes to get what he wants. He's the one we're mad at.

So with the New Year, enjoy your hobby and your love of trains...I won't fault anybody for that. But remember, we're at work and your decisions can have an effect on our decisions and when it weighs as many tons as trains do, most decisions are big ones.

End of rant...now back to our regularly scheduled program still in progress.

Happy hunting and stay safe out there