

Wimberley, Blanco & Southern RR Safety Rules

Background: Due to the length and the grades on the main line, we ask that a few safety rules be followed. These are covered under safety cables, brakes, riding on trains, and kids.

Safety Cables: Due to the long grades on the WB&S RR, all cars will need safety cables, safety chains or a solid bar connection between cars. Safety cables or chains should attach to solid eyelets with locking hooks. Solid eyelets can be mounted on the end of the cars or attached to the coupler pocket. In lieu of cables or chains, a solid bar can connect two cars, such as a locomotive and tender.

For those trains that have automatic braking (positive braking if a car breaks away), safety cables or chains are not required. The automatic braking must be demonstrated at the track..

Brakes: All locomotives should have some form of braking (not including shoe leather). On diesels, dynamic braking meets this requirement. In lieu of engine brakes, tender brakes are acceptable as long as the engineer is riding the tender or the riding car.

As for train brakes, train brakes are required when the weight of the train, including passengers, exceeds the weight of the locomotive with brakes. If the tender or riding car has brakes, these, including the weight of the engineer, can be included as part of the locomotive braking weight. As a guideline, a train with brakes only in the engine should be capable of stopping a train of four cars with three adults not including the engineer.

As the length of the train or the number of passengers increase, we expect that some of the riding cars should have brakes. The measure of brake adequacy is that a train (with or without passengers) should be capable of stopping safely within a reasonable distance when the brakes are applied on the downgrade beyond the "Goat Crossing".

Just to repeat, all trains need safety cables, chains, or solid drawbars (with the one exception of automatic train brakes as noted above).

Riding on Trains: Engineers should remind new passengers to please face forward and keep their hands inside the cars. Unsafe practices such as leaning to one side, rocking the cars, or turning around, could derail the train. Also, if a passenger is alone in a car, please take the center-most seat. If two or more people are in a car, please distribute your weight evenly.

Kids: Due to the size of the equipment operating here, especially steam locomotives, kids and their parents must be aware of the potential dangers. Please be aware that no one should run near or on the tracks, play in the ballast pile, play with equipment that is not their family's, go in the steaming bay area unless accompanied by a parent, or go unattended into any buildings.

Finally, any kid running a train must be accompanied by a parent experienced in operating that train, unless checked out by the WB&S.

Summary: Enjoy yourselves at the WB&S. Just please do it safely! Finally, visitors are asked not go into the main house or the guesthouse unless invited.