



LAW ENFORCEMENT GUIDE TO THE RAILROAD

Railroad tracks and the adjoining right-of-way (which typically extends 30-100 feet from the center of the track) are private property. NCGS 14-280.1 addresses trespassing on railroad property. Any law enforcement officer certified in North Carolina may enforce NCGS 14-280.1:

§ 14-280.1. Trespassing on railroad right-of-way.

(a) Offense. – A person commits the offense of trespassing on railroad right-of-way if the person enters and remains on the railroad right-of-way without the consent of the railroad company or the person operating the railroad or without authority granted pursuant to State or federal law. ... (d) Classification. – Trespassing on railroad right-of-way is a Class 3 misdemeanor. (2000-146, s. 10.)

If a person is walking on or near the tracks, there is reasonable suspicion to stop them and conduct an investigation. NCGS 14-280.1 could also apply to homeless camps located on railroad right-of-way.

Norfolk Southern Corporation has six special agents in North Carolina who are responsible for protecting company property and employees and enforcing railroad-related laws like trespassing. The special agents have statewide jurisdiction and may enforce any North Carolina criminal or traffic statute whether on or off railroad property.

Norfolk Southern Corporation special agents are available to assist with trespassing enforcement, grade crossing enforcement, answer questions about right-of-way, provide training, and more. The special agent assigned to eastern North Carolina, including Durham is:

Special Agent Paul Sherwin
1500 Carson St | Raleigh, NC 27608
Office: 919-831-3050
Fax: 919-831-3061
Email: paul.sherwin@nscorp.com

If an arrest is made for a railroad-related crime, and Norfolk Southern Corporation is the victim, please use Special Agent Sherwin's contact information as necessary for the arrest report, warrant, etc. *Please email Special Agent Sherwin any time a person is arrested or warned for trespassing on railroad property.*

Norfolk Southern Corporation and CSX Corporation operate in Durham. Each company maintains a 24-hour police dispatch center where railroad emergencies and non-emergencies may be reported:

- Norfolk Southern Corporation: 1-800-453-2530
- CSX Corporation: 1-800-232-0144