



**PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release**

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State of Illinois Proclaims September 11th - 17th Illinois Rail Safety Week

The State of Illinois has declared September 11th to 17th as Illinois Rail Safety Week in order to promote vehicle and pedestrian safety around railroad tracks and trains. In Illinois during 2015, there were 140 crossing collisions involving motor vehicles, which resulted in 79 injuries and 24 fatalities. In addition, there were 41 trespasser incidents that resulted in 18 injuries and 23 fatalities when people trespassed on to railroad property. During 2015, Illinois ranked 2nd in the nation in vehicle collision fatalities and 5th in the nation in trespasser fatalities.

To promote rail safety awareness and education, the **Illinois Operation Lifesaver** will be participating with more than 400 other departments, municipalities and law enforcement agencies during this Illinois Rail Safety Week campaign. Enforcement details are planned throughout the state at various railroad grade crossings and commuter stations to cite both drivers and pedestrians who disobey the laws associated with railroad grade crossings and railroad property. In addition, police officers will be distributing literature to the public that contains information on how to be safe around trains and train tracks.

According to the Illinois Commerce Commission, more than 78 percent of all collisions occur at crossings with active warning devices (flashing lights, ringing bells and/ or gates). For more information about Illinois Rail Safety Week, please visit www.illinoisrailsafetyweek.org.