



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **State of Illinois Proclaims Week of September 22-28, 2019 as “Rail Safety Week”**

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) would like to thank Governor J.B. Pritzker for proclaiming the week of September 22-28, 2019 as *Illinois Rail Safety Week*. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year for the week-long, statewide safety initiative aimed at reducing train collisions with drivers and pedestrians in Illinois.

In 2018 in Illinois, 86 vehicle crashes were reported at public highway/rail grade crossing, resulting in 15 fatalities and 26 personal injuries. In addition, 20 pedestrians trespassing on railroad property rights-of-way were struck by passing trains, resulting in 22 fatalities and 18 personal injuries. Illinois ranked third in the nation in grade crossing fatalities and fifth in trespass fatalities in 2018.

“More than 85 percent of all collisions in Illinois occur at crossings with active warning devices, such as flashing lights, ringing bells and gates,” said ICC Chairman Carrie K. Zalewski. “Because of this, educating and informing the public about rail safety and enhancing public awareness of the risks and dangers associated with highway-rail grade crossings is pivotal to reducing injuries and death.”

Illinois has the second largest rail system of any state in the nation with more than 7,300 miles of railroad tracks and over a trillion pounds of freight moving on those tracks every year. And Chicago is the largest rail hub in the nation.

Illinois’ efforts are led by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) in collaboration with Metra Railroad, CN Railroad, and Illinois Operation Lifesaver. It is supported by dozens of statewide organizations including the Illinois Commerce Commission, American Automobile Association, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois State Police, Illinois Tollway Authority, Illinois Sheriff’s Association, Illinois Truck Enforcement Association, Illinois High School and College Driver’s Education Association, DuPage Railroad Safety Council as well as hundreds of local and railroad law enforcement

agencies, first responders and area railroad companies. All are committed to stepping up enforcement of state laws and educating Illinois residents on all aspects of railroad safety. Illinois' Rail Safety Week runs concurrently with the National Rail Safety Week.

For more information about Illinois Rail Safety Week, please visit [www.illinoisrailsafetyweek.org](http://www.illinoisrailsafetyweek.org). Click [here](#) for more on the ICC's Rail Safety efforts, and click [here](#) to access Governor Pritzker's proclamation.

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***About the Illinois Commerce Commission***

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is a quasi-judicial body made up of five Commissioners. Through its Public Utility Program, the Commission oversees the provision of adequate, reliable, efficient and safe utility services at the least possible cost to Illinois citizens served by electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water and sewer public utility companies. Through its Transportation Regulatory Program, the Commission oversees public safety and consumer protection programs with regard to intrastate commercial motor carriers of general freight, household goods movers, relocation towers, safety towers, personal property warehouses and repossession agencies. The Commission's Rail Safety Program also inspects and regulates the general safety of railroad tracks, facilities and equipment in the state.

To learn more about the Commission, its offices and bureaus, click [here](#). If you are a consumer who needs help resolving a utility dispute call 800-524-0795 or file an online complaint [here](#). For a complaint related to transportation, call 217-782-6448.

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