



Staying On Track

State Coordinator

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Local Law Enforcement Recognized

The Union Pacific Railroad ran an Executive Special Metra Train along their tracks on April 7th where local officials were recognized by the railroad for their work and assistance related to safety around the tracks. Some of the individuals recognized were;

Villa Park Lt. Fisher, Ofc Lyons and Lombard Ofc. Menolascino for their work in preventing collisions along the UP West Line.

Villa Park Ofc. Soto, and Ofc Markas who responded to a call from

the mother of a girl who was threatening to commit suicide by train. They located the girl before she was able to take any action.

Lombard Ofc. Ward, Ofc. Chudzinski and Dispatcher Lubarda were working to assist Villa Park PD to locate the girl discussed above when they saw a suspicious male individual at their train station on closed circuit cameras that had been provided through the PEERS Grant. When they checked on him, he was

also planning a suicide attempt by train, and his actions were prevented. These two incidents could have occurred almost simultaneously if they had not been prevented.

Elmhurst Cmdr. Kveton was recognized for designing the Elmhurst RR Safety program, which reduced collisions and fatalities. After suffering 3 fatal collisions in a 12 month period in the early 1990s, Elmhurst has now gone 15 ½ years with only one fatal collision.

Union Pacific Recognizes Employee Efforts

On March 18th, the Union Pacific Railroad recognized four of their employees, who are also members of Illinois Operation Lifesaver, for the work they have done in the area of railroad safety. The four employees, ILOL Presenters Joel Kirchner, Pat Mitchell, Sheldon Soldwich and ILOL associate Dean Ridder, were awarded the Dennis B. Beachler Grade Crossing Safety Award. This award recognizes employees' involvement in the prevention of grade

crossing collisions and their commitment to the company's grade crossing safety goals.

Each service unit nominates one agreement and one non-agreement employee. Joel and Pat were nominated by the Commuter Service Unit and Sheldon and Dean were nominated by the Chicago Service Unit. Their efforts included monitoring conditions that could affect public safety, their involvement with Operation Lifesaver presentations and booths.

The efforts they took in promoting grade crossing safety to diverse audiences.

Nice Job and Congratulations to all!



From left; ILOL Presenters Pat Mitchell, Sheldon Soldwich, Joel Kirchner, and Associate Dean Ridder

Health World provides a unique approach to train safety education!



Railway Rally must be displayed indoors and requires a minimum ceiling height of 9 feet.



Officer Chris Parr, Wheeling Police Department integrates the Railway Rally exhibit into the school presentation.

Health World's train safety exhibit, "Railway Rally" continues to engage children, and adults, allowing them to showcase their "train safety smarts." Health World, Metra and Illinois Operation Lifesaver, along with a plethora of railroad professionals, share one common goal. Preventing fatalities on and around train tracks.

Health World's railroad exhibit has traveled throughout the State of Illinois providing close to a hundred thousand people in 2009 alone with access to this unique train safety education experience.

We know young people do not often realize the possible consequences of their choices. The majority of Health World's programming illustrates to participants that life is not like a video game; you can't simply go back and hit the re-set button. Trespassing and disobeying warning signals are just a few "choices" that can have life changing, sometimes life ending consequences.

"Railway Rally" provides opportunities for parents, police officers, firefighters, teachers and other care-givers to talk with young people about train safety. The non-threatening, interactive format gets everyone involved in learning. Initial funding through the PEERS grant provided the support to create the exhibit and additional PEERS grants and support from Metra provides the opportunity for Health World to bring this unique resource out into schools and communities free of charge!

Recently Officer Chris Parr, Wheeling Police Department, integrated the Railway Rally exhibit into a full school district initiative. Every elementary school in Wheeling, IL received an Operation Lifesaver presentation and access to Health World's interactive exhibit. Officer Parr was extremely

creative and encouraged students to cheer on their teachers as the teachers played against each other to show off their "train safety smarts!" We look forward to additional opportunities to work collaboratively to mobilize comprehensive train safety education initiatives.

Reservations are accepted by calling 847.842.9100 ext 281 and are booked on a first come, first serve basis. So whether it is a school partnership, community or train safety event plan early and reserve your date!

In addition to traveling exhibits, Health World offers more than 27 programs on topics that include nutrition, general health, safety, environmental health, family life, mental health and drug education. Our team of health educators spark the students' interest in learning through hands-on activities and quest-based experiences. School districts throughout the state have referred to Health World as the "best practice" in providing health and safety education. For more information about Health World programs and resources please visit our website at: healthworldoutreach.org

Health World is proud to have Metra, Operation Lifesaver, ICC and the PEERS grant fund as education partners. These partnerships help us educate hundreds-of-thousands of students each year in order to reduce the number, or better yet, *prevent* train related injuries/deaths.

Health World;

www.healthworldoutreach.org

847.842.9100 ext 281

Grade Crossing (or highway-rail intersection), what's in a name?

Throughout most of the world, locations where highways and railroads intersect are referred to as Level Crossings. However, here in the USA, we refer to them as highway-rail grade crossings. Recently, there has been a move to refer to highway-rail grade crossings as highway-rail intersections to facilitate incorporation of these intersections into the larger world of Intelligent Transportation Systems safety planning and engineering.

We have three flavors of highway-rail grade crossings; pedestrian, private and public. A public highway-rail crossing is one that has the highway approach on both sides maintained by a public highway authority, such as a local city, township or county. A private crossing is one where a private landowner owns the highway approaches on both sides of the crossing and is responsible for maintaining the roadway approaches, as well as any warning signs or devices.

Pedestrian crossings are those crossings designed exclusively for use by pedestrians. Pedestrian crossings can be either public crossings or private. Metra crosswalks, for example, are pedestrian crossings that technically are private crossings since only Metra patrons have a right to be on Metra property. Illinois has the second largest number of at-grade crossings in the nation. Only Texas has more at-grade crossings.

Type of At-Grade Hwy-Rail Xing	Illinois	%	USA	%
Pedestrian-AtGrade	394	3.0%	1,985	0.9%
Private-AtGrade	4,800	36.4%	83,718	37.8%
Public-AtGrade	7,990	60.6%	136,040	61.4%
Total	13,184	100.0%	221,743	100.0%

The type of warning device at public highway-rail grade crossings is determined by a joint consensus of the railroad and the highway authority. In Illinois, the Illinois Commerce Commission determines the appropriate warning device and determines who will pay for the installation of warning devices. Typically, the state pays for 90 percent and the railroad and local community share the remainder of the cost. Railroads are then responsible for the cost of maintaining the warning devices.

Public At-Grade Hwy-Rail Xing	Illinois	%	USA	%
Gates	3,217	40.3%	42,022	30.9%
Flashing Lights	1,863	23.3%	22,039	16.2%
Other Active Devices	27	0.3%	3,398	2.5%
Sub-Total Train Activated Devices	5,107	63.9%	67,459	49.6%
Crossbucks	2,647	33.1%	53,500	39.3%
Other Passive Signs	236	3.0%	15,081	11.1%
Sub-Total Passive Warning Signs	2,883	36.1%	68,581	50.4%
Total Public At-Grade Crossings	7,990	100.0%	136,040	100.0%

Accident / event / incident / collision?

How do we refer to an event when a train strikes someone at a highway-rail grade crossing? The correct way to refer to a train versus motor vehicle or train versus pedestrian incident that occurs within the confines of a highway-rail grade crossing is: Collision.

Collisions between on-track equipment and vehicles or individuals that do not occur at a legally authorized highway-rail grade crossing, are trespasser incidents. People may only cross railroad tracks at legally designated crossing points. Anywhere else is trespassing and may result in individuals receiving a citation and a \$150 fine.

Did you know that anyone who is struck by a train, whether in a vehicle, or not, is automatically a trespasser! The train always has the right-of-way and it is prima facie evidence of trespassing, simply because they were struck by a train.

Collisions between on-track equipment and motorists or pedestrians that occur within the confines of the highway-rail grade crossing must be reported to the Federal Railroad Administration. There are no exceptions to this rule, including confirmed suicides. Collisions that result in a fatality are also required to be reported immediately by telephone to the National Response Center and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

Thanks to All Who Helped With Special Events



On Saturday, March 20th many of the best BMX riders in the world competed head-to-head on two jumps and a quarter pipe in ASA's Big Air BMX Triples event at the Convocation Center on the Northern Illinois University campus. Sheldon and Colleen Soldwisch were there spreading the ILOL safety message and passing out pens, pencils and key safety tips. They had

contact with over 650 people at the event.

Unveiled on 3/31/10 at the Houston TX Amtrak Station, the UP's 2010 Boy Scouts of America Engine was later brought to Illinois as part of the festivities at the June 2010 Rochelle Railroad Days event which was held on June 4, 5, and 6, 2010. Illinois OL members Pat Mitchell, Brian McMeen, Diana

Davies, Dean Ridder, Joel Kirchner, and Sheldon and Colleen Soldwisch participated and were on hand to teach the OL safety message to all that attended this event.

Franklin Park Railroad Daze, were also held on June 5, 2010. OL Presenters that assisted were Tom McNamara and Larry Green.

Thanks to All That Helped!

ILOL Awards Grants to Attend OLI Symposium

ILOL has again decided to offer grants to its members and board members to assist them in attending the International Operation Lifesaver Symposium that is being held in Baltimore, Maryland, Aug 30-Sep 1. At the March ILOL Board Meeting it was decided

that four \$300.00 grants will be offered to ILOL members to help pay for lodging expenses at the Symposium. Since then there were four grant applications received.

The four individuals that will be receiving the grant will be Daniel Torza, Dave

Phillips, Kevin Dawson and Lynn Howell.

This years International Symposium promises to be a very valuable educational experience. Congratulations! to those individuals that were awarded the ILOL Symposium Grants.

Grade Crossing Collision Investigation Course

The Operation Lifesaver; Grade Crossing Collision Investigation Course (GCCCI) is the new hot topic. Over the last couple of years a committee made up of law enforcement and railroad professionals gathered and re-wrote the curriculum for this course. This is now a certified course that is recognized and supported by both the International Association of Chief's of Police and Operation Lifesaver Inc. When Special Agent Jim Magner of the UP Railroad and Cmdr Jim Kveton of the Elmhurst Police announced that they would be offering classes in the Chicago area, the response was so overwhelming, classes could not be scheduled fast

enough to handle the demand.

Classes of over 20 participants have been held at the Elmhurst Police Dept in April and June and another class is scheduled for July 23rd. GCCCI courses are offered in 4, 8 and 16 hour blocks. The classes that are being held are 8 hours in length and include classroom instruction in the morning and practical instruction on a Metra Commuter Train in the afternoon. Tom Cote, Manager of Safety Services at the UP Railroad teaches the practical portion of the class.

If you are interested in attending one of these classes contact Jim Kveton at james.kveton@elmhurst.org to reserve a spot in a class.

Tom Cote, UP Railroad Manager of Safety Services explains the emergency evacuation windows on a Metra passenger car.



“Meet a Presenter” ILOL Presenter Kathy Guy

Kathy Guy is a retired Locomotive Engineer from the Illinois & Midland Railroad with 34 years of service. She is a third generation railroader with her grandfather, father and 2 brothers, also serving as locomotive engineers. Even her grandmother worked for the railroad as a telegrapher back in the days when Mores Code was used to transmit messages.

During her time on the railroad Kathy had seen way too many intelligent people doing foolish things around the tracks, and she wanted to do something to prevent people from being involved in a collision, which could cause them an injury or death. Kathy decided to become an Operation Lifesaver Presenter so she could help teach others to make the right decisions around railroad property. She reflected back to one of her most

rewarding experiences as a presenter, which was a conversation she had with a lady who's cousin had been struck by a train that Kathy's father was operating. Kathy and the lady had laughed and cried together over the incident.

Kathy, who had been a grade school teacher for 5 years and worked in house keeping at St John's Hospital in Springfield for 14 years prior to working for the railroad, enjoys knitting, crocheting and counted cross stitching in her spare time. She is also involved in directing the Choir and Cantoring at her Church.

Kathy has many fond memories from the Operation Lifesaver classes she has taught, but enjoys teaching children the most.



ILOL Presenter Kathy Guy of Pekin, Illinois

International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD)

Tuesday, June 22, 2010, is International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD). This event is happening in numerous countries throughout the world and involves Railway Police, rail companies, regulators and many others, bringing home the message of crossing safety. CP Police, along with local law enforcement agencies, will conduct crossing enforcement details throughout its system. Anyone needed more information or anyone interested in assisting with the CP initiative contact J.D. (Jim) Tubbs, District Inspector, Canadian Pacific Police Service, (630) 860-4887, 24/7 Police Control Center (800) 716-9132

Wheeling Police take OL on the road.....or was that rails?

During the months of April, May and June Officers from the Wheeling Police Department spread the Operation Lifesaver message to the commuters who ride the North Central Line. Sergeant Porzycki, Officer Parr, Officer Dawson and Officer Laverd delivered rail safety messages to commuters on each of the inbound and outbound trains. Officers also distributed Operation Lifesaver hats, mugs, Frisbees, pencils and pens to reinforce the safety message. To the right Officer Parr is assisted by a child passenger with her OL charts.



Illinois Operation Lifesaver

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Operation Lifesaver Inc.

See us at:

www.oli.org

or

www.icc.illinois.gov/LOL

Illinois Operation Lifesaver 2010 Meeting Schedule

Illinois Operation Lifesaver North:

Sept. 28st, (8AM Board, 10:30AM general) Elmhurst Police Dept.

Dec. 14th, (8AM Board, 10:30AM general) Elmhurst City Hall

Illinois Operation Lifesaver South:

Sept. 7th, (10AM general meeting)

Municipal West Training Building

Dec. 7th, (10AM general meeting)

Municipal West Training Building

Elmhurst Police Dept., 125 E. First Street, Elmhurst, IL 60126 (630) 530-3050

Elmhurst City Hall, 209 N. York Street, Elmhurst, IL 60126 (630) 530-3000

Municipal West Training Building, 200 Potomac Blvd., Mount Vernon, IL 62864

ILOL Newsletter staff would like to thank, Kym Zylke, Steve Laffey, Gordon Bowe, Joel Kirchner, Sheldon Soldwisch, Eric Graff, and Chris Parr for submitting stories, pictures, stats and graphs for this ILOL Newsletter.

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Submitting Articles, Pictures or Information For The Newsletter

Illinois Operation Lifesaver is always looking for information, articles, and pictures to be added to and shared through our Newsletter. If you have any information about up coming

events, classes, conferences or anything else that would benefit other OL volunteers, please forward them in by email. We also like to share in the successes of our volunteers

and OL at large, so include things we can celebrate also. We will include as many as we can. Forward all submissions to james.kveton@elmhurst.org



Enforcement Effort

Officers of the CN Police, Lockport PD, UPRR Police and Metra RR Police conducted a joint enforcement project in the area of 13th and State Street in Lockport IL on May 26th. Several people were stopped and cited for trespassing on railroad property and for violating railroad crossing gates, flashers and bells. Officers involved in the project made contact with over 200 people. They handed out Key Safety Tip flyers and instructing citizens on proper safety practices around railroad property.