



# Staying On Track

## State Coordinator

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## 16<sup>th</sup> International OL Symposium

This year's 16<sup>th</sup> International Operation Lifesaver Symposium, which was held in Baltimore Maryland promised to be a very special and memorable event with representation from all over the United States and several other countries including Canada, Finland, Argentina, Estonia and the United Kingdom. Participants could be seen arriving all day Saturday and Sunday.

Training started Sunday with the State Coordinators during the day. That evening a

## Awards Given

During the festivities of the banquet that was held at the Baltimore inner harbor aquarium, several people were recognized for their individual achievements in preventing deaths and injuries around tracks and trains. Mike Glenn of Snellville GA, a former NBA player and television sports analyst received the Champion Award, with honorable mentions going to Don Matlock of Hamilton MT, Sandy Brown of Casa Grande, AZ and Cmdr. Jim Kveton of Elmhurst IL. The

wonderful Welcome Reception was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> floor of the Hyatt, in a room that had a panoramic view of the Inner Harbor. It was great for everyone be able to socialize and interact with friends and colleagues that they may not have seen for a couple of years.

Trainers Day started Monday morning, followed by the opening of the general session. Speakers included John Porcari, Dep. Secretary of USDOT, and Deborah Hersman, Chairman of the NTSB. Dr. Barry Kaufman, one of our own

from Illinois also spoke.

Training continued with topics including International Programs, which were great, inspiring Volunteers, Social Media, Engineering, Community Enforcement and Light Rail Issues. On the last day Syd Muzzy, a motivational speaker, was wonderful. I could say he even brought a tear to my eye. The social events, which included an awards dinner at the National Aquarium, and an evening Orioles baseball game topped off the event well.

Champion Award recognizes an individual who has contributed "significantly" to the overall OL mission in any of the three "E" components of rail safety: education, enforcement or engineering.

Sgt. First Class Brian Hakey of Southport NC, received the F. Tom Roberts Memorial Volunteer Award for making the OL message available to all branches of the military.

All Award Recipients should be commended for their outstanding efforts in spreading and promoting the OL message and preventing collisions, injuries and deaths near trains and tracks.



The US Naval ship, USS Whidbey Island docked at the inner harbor during the symposium and provided free tours.

## Enforcement Guide for Police Officers

A few months ago Senior Special Agent Mike Meyer of the Union Pacific Police came up with an idea to create an Enforcement Guide for Police Officers that would list all the general offenses related to railroad property. With the assistance from Steve Laffey of the ICC and some other law enforcement officers, the below pictured guide was designed and created. The guide will be printed and distributed by the ICC in the near future but you can feel free to cut these out and use them if you wish. Your logo can be put in place of the yellow early warning sign.



**ILLINOIS RAILROAD STATUTES  
(OFFENSE CODE)**

**Vehicle Crossing Violations**

**Disobeyed Signal Indicating Approach of Train**  
625 ILCS 5/11-1201 (cite proper paragraph)  
(Includes driving through, under, around gates while being opened or closed, yielding to trains)

**Do Not Stop On Tracks Violation**  
625 ILCS 5/11-1425 (cite proper paragraph)

**Improper Passing near Railroad Crossing**  
625 ILCS 5/11-706 (a2)  
(Within 100 Ft. Of Grade Crossing)

**Failed To Stop At R.R. Crossing-Special Vehicles**  
625 ILCS 5/11-1202 (cite proper paragraph) (2<sup>nd</sup> division vehicle with passengers for hire or School Bus or Hazardous Materials/Placarded Vehicles)

**Moving Heavy Equipment over R.R. Crossing**  
625 ILCS 5/11-1203

**SOS/CDL Disqualifications For R.R. Violations**  
See 625 ILCS 5/6-514 (j)

**Reckless Driving/Uses Crossing as a Ramp**  
625 ILCS 5/11-503(a2)(Class A misdemeanor)

**Pedestrian Crossing Violation**

**Pedestrian Violating Crossing Gates**  
625 ILCS 5/11-1011 (b)

**Pedestrian Violating Warning Devices**  
625 ILCS 5/11-1011 (c)

**Trespass On Railroad Property**

**Trespass On Railroad R.O.W. Or Yard**  
625 ILCS 5/18C-7503

**Malicious Removal Or Damage To R.R. Property**  
625 ILCS 5/18C-7502  
(Includes throwing or shooting at train)

**Parking Violations**

**Improper Parking Near Railroad Property**  
625 ILCS 5/11-1303 (3a)

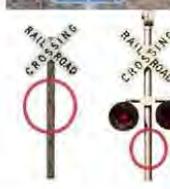
**Emergency Telephone Numbers**

Railroad	Phone #
Amtrak	800 / 331-0008
Belt Rwy of Chicago	708 / 728-2319
BNSF Railway	800 / 832-5452
CN (CCP/EJE/GTW/IC/WC)	800 / 465-9239
CP (Soo Line, DM&E)	800 / 716-9132
Chemtec (Haz Mat Incidents)	800 / 424-9300
CSX	800 / 232-0144
Indiana Harbor Belt	708 / 458-1313
Kansas City Southern Railroad	877 / 527-9464
Metra	877 / 349-4283
Norfolk Southern	800 / 453-2530
Terminal RR Assoc of St Louis	888 / 784-8772
Toledo Peoria & Western RR	888 / 293-3443
Union Pacific Railroad	888 / 877-7267 800 / 848-8715

**Emergency Notification Signs**

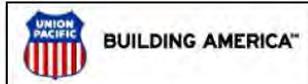






*Required at All Public Crossings as of April 2010*





***Always Expect A Train At Any Time  
On Any Track & In Any Direction***

## Security Awareness for Transit Passengers

### Operation Railsafe

Starting in 2010, Amtrak, Metra, BNSF, UP and NITCD Police Departments working in conjunction with the Transportation Security Administration started educating train traveling commuters throughout the Chicago metropolitan area in regards to Security Awareness for transit passengers.

The first initiative started in early June 2010. Representatives from all communities that are along railroad lines that lead into Chicago were invited to meet for an informational meeting in Chicago. Security concerns were presented to the group along with trends that have been observed throughout the country and internationally. At the conclusion all representatives of communities that attended were asked to participate in an informational blitz to get this safety information out to the public. Safety brochures had been prepared and distributed to the participating agencies, some of which put out press releases to their local media.

On June 24<sup>th</sup> approximately 150 individual agencies participated in this security surge by having police officers at each local train station handing out the informational flyers to commuters during the morning rush hour. The feedback that was received from this event was extremely positive. The show of force, which included three states, was significant in assuring the traveling public and anyone intent on harming the rail system, we are committed to protecting and defending this crucial mass transit network.

**To learn more about what you can do to improve transit safety and security, visit;**

[www.metrarail.com](http://www.metrarail.com)

[www.Amtrak.com](http://www.Amtrak.com)

[www.bnsf.com](http://www.bnsf.com)

[www.up.com](http://www.up.com)

[www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov)

**For additional tips on Security and Emergency Preparedness, go to;**

[www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)

[www.ready.illinois.gov](http://www.ready.illinois.gov)

In August the collaboration continued when Chief John J. O'Connor of Amtrak Police and Chief James Sanford of Metra Police again reached out to local law enforcement to coordinate another initiative. This project would be called Operation "RAILSAFE".

A coordination meeting was held on September 2, 2010 at 350 W. Mart Center Drive in Chicago. During this meeting an initial debriefing was held to discuss the previous event, "ALERTS", and what was learned from it. Again the ALERTS event covered three states and approximately 150 different departments participated. Ross Preston, Field Intelligence Officer, (TSA Officer of Intelligence), Department of Homeland Security held a presentation covering new trends and intelligence regarding concerns of safety around transit systems.

Informational flyers were designed, printed and distributed to the 150 agencies. These handouts included information about the aftermath of 9/11, transit rail's top priorities, terrorism concerns and information about customer security.

On September 10, 2010 participating agencies had officers out on train station platforms interacting with commuters and handing this information out to them. In some cases departments made sure every commuter received one of the flyers by placing one of the flyers on the windshield of every vehicle parked in the commuter parking lots along the train tracks.

**For more information regarding either of these two events contact Denise Arroyo, Emergency Preparedness Administrator, (312) 322-8908 [darroyo@metrarr.com](mailto:darroyo@metrarr.com) or Phillip Romito, Security Coordinator, (312) 542-8108, [promito@metrarr.com](mailto:promito@metrarr.com)**

## ILLINOIS OPERATION LIFESAVER PARTICIPATES Two Major Down State Illinois Events

### All Tracks Lead to the Illinois State Fair



Illinois OL Booth at the Illinois State Fair

The Illinois State Fair was held August 13 through the 22<sup>nd</sup> in Springfield. A total of 41 representatives from Amtrak, MetroLink Light Rail, BNSF, BRC, CSX, Elmhurst Police Dept., Illinois

Commerce Commission, and the Mount Vernon Fire Dept., provided over 240 hours of volunteer labor. The 2010 State Fair was the 157<sup>th</sup> edition and drew over 700,000

people. OL representatives contacted an estimated 14,000 people throughout the 11 day event. Pictured to the left are some highlights from the OL Tent.

### “Decatur Celebration” Down State Illinois Event



Illinois OL Booth at the Decatur Celebration

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Decatur Celebration ran August 6, 7 and 8<sup>th</sup>. “Decatur Celebration” is the largest family street festival South of Chicago in Illinois, featuring national entertainment with more than 70 unique

food items, 80 arts and crafts vendors, 40 commercial vendors, dozens of street attractions, and 11 show stages ... all centered in 20 city blocks of downtown Decatur, Illinois. Norfolk Southern’s

Decatur Terminal Safety Team, lead by Dan Calhoun, Justin Myren and Bill Crisp, handled the Operation Lifesaver duties. Pictured to the left are some highlights from Decatur.

### Metra Coordinates Summer Railroad Safety Blitzes



Lt. Dan Focht of the Elmhurst Fire Dept., and Ofc. Trish Vascik of Elmhurst Police Dept. talk to a commuter at a safety blitz

Metra Commuter Railroad with the assistance of local law enforcement, fire departments and the Union Pacific Railroad have been doing an outstanding job this summer putting together railroad safety blitzes throughout the Chicago land area handing out safety information, pens, pencils and other reminders of our safety message. Sgt. Paul Wyse of the Wooddale Police Department has been making pre-event phone calls to make sure the local community is aware of up

coming safety blitzes and to promote local participation. Larry Green, Tom McNamara, Gordon Bowe, Jim Magner, Joel Kirchner and Sheldon Soldwich are major contributors to these efforts. Recently during an Elmhurst safety blitz there were 14 participants including members of the police dept, fire dept, Metra Police, UP Police, citizens and Metra Commuter Operations. Over 500 commuters were contacted. **Great Job by all!**

## “Meet a Presenter” ILOL Presenter Joel Kirchner

Joel Kirchner is a locomotive engineer and has worked for the Union Pacific Railroad for the last 22 years. Recently Joel was selected to fill the opening that will be created as Pat Mitchell retires from the UPRR. His new title will be Manager of Yard Operations.

In his spare time Joel enjoys photography, model railroading and spending time with his family. He has also become quite proficient texting from his new cell phone.

Joel was married in 2001 to his wife Anne. Joel and Anne have two sons, Brendan age 8 and Jackson age 2.

In talking with Joel about becoming an Operation Lifesaver Presenter he reflected back to social events that he attends. “When people find out that I work for the railroad the conversation eventually turns to crossing collisions”, Joel said. After having many of these

conversations with people about collisions he came to realize that the average citizen doesn’t really know or understand how dangerous railroad crossings can truly be. In fact many people don’t even know all the rules, laws and responsibilities people need to comply with when interacting with railroads and railroad property.

Out of all the classes Joel teaches, he feels that teaching young children is his favorite audience. Joel feels that when he teaches a class of young children, he has a bigger impact on the public, because those children usually share the information he has taught them with others when they get home. The most rewarding part of Operation Lifesaver is when someone thanks Joel for teaching them something they were not previously aware of.



*ILOL Presenter Joel Kirchner  
of South Elgin IL*

## Illinois Operation Lifesaver Recognizes Contributors

The members of Illinois Operation Lifesaver and the Board of Directors would like to recognize and thank the railroads, businesses and other individuals who have made contributions to Illinois Operation Lifesaver during 2010 to help prevent railroad involved collisions, injuries or deaths. Without our contributors and all those that support ILOL we would not be able to reduce the preventable railroad involved collisions, which are so senseless.

**Gold Level Sponsor - \$4,000.00 to \$6,000.00**

**Silver Level Sponsor - \$2,000.00 to \$3,999.00**

**Bronze Level Sponsor - \$1,000.00 to \$1,999.00**

**Associate Sponsors - Under \$1,000.00**

### Gold Level Sponsors

Union Pacific Railroad

BNSF Railroad

### Silver Level Sponsors

CNIC Railroad

NS Railroad

CSX Railroad

### Bronze Level Sponsors

Metra Commuter Railroad

KCS Railroad

### Associate Sponsors

Iowa Interstate Railroad

GATX Corporation

Illinois Propane Gas Assn.

Morton Suggestions Comp.

Belt Railroad

# Illinois Operation Lifesaver 2010 Meeting Schedule

## Illinois Operation Lifesaver

Billing Address  
P.O. Box 183  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Coordinator  
580 Vine Ave.  
Highland Park, IL 60035

CHIP PEW PHONE:  
(312) 636-3034  
E-MAIL:  
cpew@icc.illinois.gov

ELMHURST PD FAX:  
(630) 941-1229

Operation Lifesaver Inc.

See us at:

[www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org)

or

[www.icc.illinois.gov/LOL](http://www.icc.illinois.gov/LOL)

**Illinois Operation Lifesaver North:**  
**Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>**, (8AM Board, 10:30AM general) Elmhurst Police Dept.  
**Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>**, (8AM Board, 10:30AM general) Elmhurst City Hall

**Illinois Operation Lifesaver South:**  
**Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>**, (10AM general meeting) Municipal West Training Building  
**Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**, (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

## DuPage Railroad Safety Council Conference September 29, 2010

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=157826587577157#!/pages/DuPage-Railroad-Safety-Council/151878021511567?v=wall> OR <http://www.drsc.org/>

## Contacting Your Illinois Operation Lifesaver Board By Email

Pres. Ken Gilsdorf

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V. Pres. Tom McNamara

[macolsmetrarr5362@sbcglobal.net](mailto:macolsmetrarr5362@sbcglobal.net)

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Treasurer Jim Kveton

[james.kveton@elmhurst.org](mailto:james.kveton@elmhurst.org)

Board Member Gordon Bowe

[Gordo400ol@yahoo.com](mailto:Gordo400ol@yahoo.com)

Board Member Jean Maroney

[jean.maroney@chicagopolice.org](mailto:jean.maroney@chicagopolice.org)

## 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](mailto:james.kveton@elmhurst.org)

## Reflection

Volunteers that help prevent railroad involved collisions, injuries and deaths come from all walks of life and all different types of backgrounds and are very giving people, wonderful people. With all the time, effort and work you put in, to helping others, I just wanted to remind everyone to remember to take care of yourself too. Don't forget to daydream, take a deep breath, relax and enjoy life. Even just taking a few moment, sitting alone or with someone special to enjoy a beautiful sunset are important moments. Enjoy some simple pleasures, be selfish just a little. Everything about you is important, and all that you give to others should also be rewarded, and cherished. You are all very wonderful and special people for what you give to others. Be proud who you are and what you do!

