



# Kendall County

## Office of the Sheriff

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### For Immediate Release

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## **The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, Partnered with Metra, CN Railroad, and Illinois Operation Lifesaver is Coordinating the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Illinois Rail Safety Week**

The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) has asked the Governor of the State of Illinois to declare September 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> as Illinois Rail Safety Week in order to promote vehicle and pedestrian safety around railroad tracks and trains. Governor Pritzker issued a proclamation and the ILACP is coordinating the sixth, statewide Illinois Rail Safety Week in partnership with Metra, CN Railroad, and Illinois Operation Lifesaver along with support from state, county, and local law enforcement agencies, railroads, schools, and various private sector agencies.

In addition, Operation Lifesaver has declared the same week as national Rail Safety Week, and the ILACP is proud to be part of the national effort. In Illinois during 2018, there were 86 collisions at public highway-rail crossings involving motor vehicles or pedestrians, which resulted in 26 injuries and 15 fatalities. In addition, there were 40 trespasser incidents that resulted in 18 injuries and 22 fatalities when people trespassed onto railroad property. During 2018, Illinois ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation in collision fatalities and 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation in trespasser fatalities.

To promote rail safety awareness and education, the Kendall County Sheriff's Office will be participating in Illinois Rail Safety Week. Enforcement is planned throughout the week at various railroad grade crossings.

Please remember, not only is it against the law to stop your vehicle on railroad tracks, it is also against the law to stop your vehicle anywhere within the highway-rail grade crossing. Highway-rail grade crossings are typically marked by white stop lines located on the pavement in advance of the crossing, and if not marked by white stop lines, the highway-rail grade crossing extends from protective gate arm to protective gate arm.

According to Illinois Operation Lifesaver, more than 85 percent of all collisions occur at crossings with active warning devices (flashing lights, gates, and ringing bells). For more information about Illinois Rail Safety Week, please visit [www.illinoisrailsafetyweek.org](http://www.illinoisrailsafetyweek.org) or contact the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police.