



Kendall County

Office of the Sheriff

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Illinois Rail Safety Week – Make Safety Your Priority

The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) is coordinating the sixth, statewide Illinois Rail Safety Week, which runs from September 22nd to 28th, 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.

The ILACP is also pleased to announce that Operation Lifesaver has declared the same week as National Rail Safety Week, and the ILACP is proud to be part of the national effort. The Kendall County Sheriff's Office wants to promote safety for both motorists and pedestrians around railroad tracks. Please make safety your priority when in an environment where railroad tracks and trains exist, and also encourage parents to pass this information on to their children. According to Operation Lifesaver;

- Trains cannot stop quickly. Even if a locomotive engineer sees you, **IT WILL TAKE THE AVERAGE TRAIN MORE THAN ONE MILE TO STOP.** That is about 20 football fields.
- The average train weighs 2,000 tons, and the average automobile weighs less than two tons.
- A motorist is 40 times more likely to die in a crash involving a train than in a crash involving another motor vehicle.
- The majority of highway/railroad collisions occur when the train is traveling less than 30 miles per hour.

- Pay careful attention at crossings at night and in bad weather.
- Because of its size, trains look like they are moving slower than they actually are. It is nearly impossible to predict the speed of an approaching train.
- If you are using headphones, please remove them when crossing or walking near railroad tracks.
- Once the warning signals begin, it can take as little as 20 seconds for the train to reach the crossing.
- Get off your bike and walk it across the tracks.

If you would like more information about Illinois Rail Safety Week, please visit www.illinoisrailsafetyweek.org or contact the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police.