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Rail Safety Week Reminds Missourians to See Tracks, Think Train

SEPTEMBER 28TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

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For most of us, buckling up and putting the phone down when driving or staying on the sidewalk while we're out for a stroll are automatic safety habits. But did you know there is another real - and potentially life-threatening - hazard to drivers and pedestrians? It's the danger we don't often consider: driving or walking near train tracks.

Federal government statistics show that, about every three hours in the U.S., a vehicle or person is hit by a train. To raise awareness of the need for caution near tracks and trains, this year's National Rail Safety Week will take place Sept. 23-29. The theme of Rail Safety Week is "Stop Track Tragedies."

"Collisions between vehicles or pedestrians and trains are preventable," said Missouri Operation Lifesaver Executive Director Tim Hull. "Missouri law enforcement agencies and railroad special agents will be out monitoring railroad crossings during Missouri Rail Safety Week. We are hoping to change the public's mindset regarding rail safety. Rail Safety Week is a great opportunity to get our message out there!"

Remember, making the right decisions near railroad tracks can truly be the difference between life and death, today - and every day. Keep yourself, family and friends safe by following Operation Lifesaver's top five rail safety tips:

1. Look and listen for a train as you approach all railroad crossings - obey all signs, warning lights and gates.

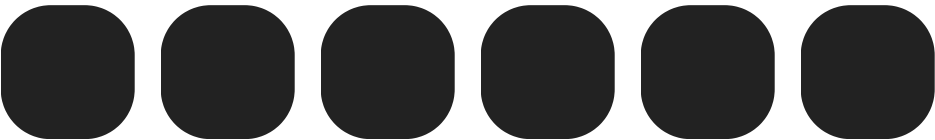
- 2. Trains are quieter and faster than you think - never try to beat a train.
- 3. Because of their size and weight, it can take a mile or more to stop a train.
- 4. Always expect a train on any track and avoid distractions when you approach a crossing.
- 5. Railroad property is private property. Walking on the tracks not at a designated crossing is illegal and dangerous.

Missouri Operation Lifesaver is a non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating collisions, deaths and injuries at highway-rail grade intersections and on railroad rights of way through public education, engineering and enforcement. To learn more about Missouri Operation Lifesaver, please visit www.oli.org.

LAST UPDATED ON SEPTEMBER 28TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

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