

Countermeasures to Reduce Suicides on Railway Rights-of-Way



Project Description:

A 3-5 year phased study led by an Industry Steering Committee and coordinated with a similar effort by Transport Canada on behalf of the Canadian rail industry will:

- determine the prevalence and underlying causal factors of rail-related suicides in the U.S.
- develop effective measures to reduce the incidence of suicide along railway rights of way (including crossings).
- establish a pilot program of prevention countermeasures.
- Provide baseline for monitoring trends

Railroad Impact:

- Addresses National Strategy for Suicide Prevention 2001 (U.S. Surgeon General) Goal 5 – “Promote efforts to reduce access to lethal means and methods of self-harm.”
- Suicide accounts for 30 – 50% of trespasser-related serious injuries / fatalities.
- In 2004, suicide was the leading cause of rail-related fatalities in Illinois, with 30 probable suicide deaths and 3 additional suicide attempts involving trains reported in Chicago alone.

FRA Task Monitor: Mike Coplen, RDV32

Schedule:

FY07 –

- Program and Research Plans developed
- Industry Steering Committee organized.
- Retrospective prevalence assessment conducted.

FY08 –

- Conduct prospective prevalence assessment & causal analysis
- Develop countermeasures

FY09-11 –

- Implement and evaluate countermeasures