

RAILROAD TRESPASS CHALLENGES
AND SOLUTIONS
FROM THE FILM AND ENTERTAINMENT
PRODUCTION INDUSTRY

PRESENTED TO:
U. S. FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION'S
2015 RIGHT-OF-WAY
TRESPASS WORKSHOP
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 4, 2015





PRESENTED BY:

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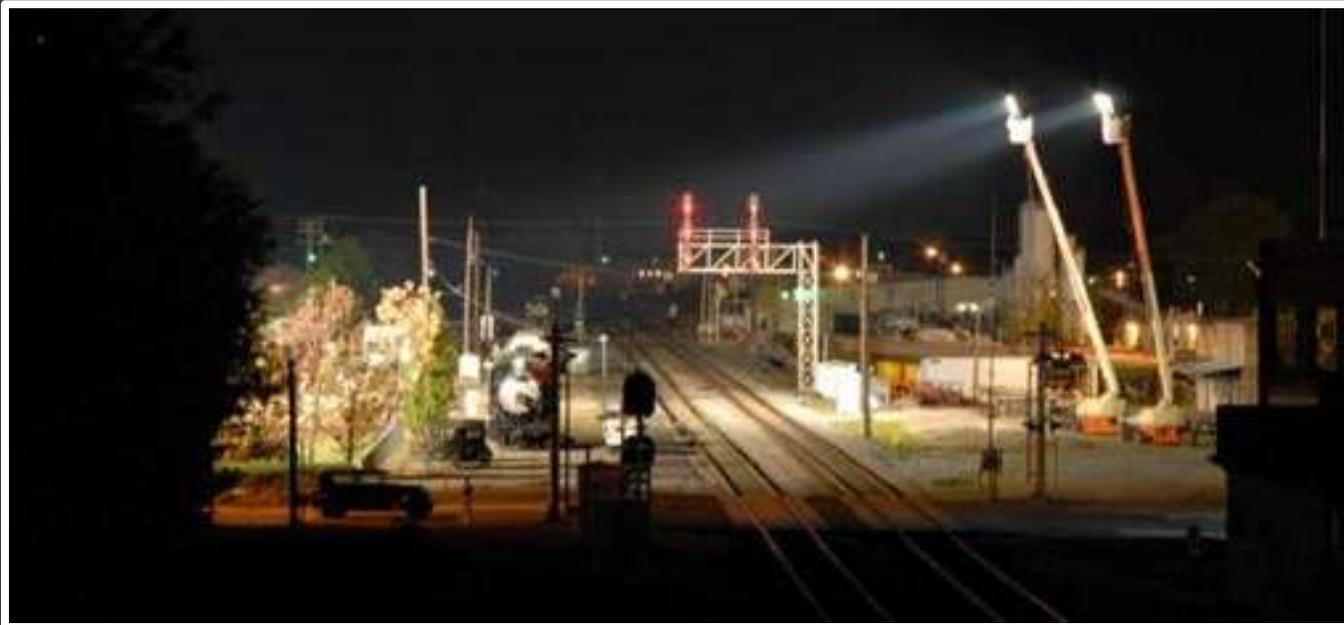
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

✓
SOME FINE PRINT, THE STUFF MY LAWYERS TELL ME TO SAY:

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A lot to cover in 14 minutes...

- The death of Sarah Jones on *Midnight Rider*
- Film and entertainment production industry responses
 - Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI)
 - International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) and Camera Guild of America, IATSE Local 600
- Right-of-Way trespass problem – scope and root cause
- Challenges of social media “lone wolf” productions
- Public education opportunities

And, cue the Credit Roll.....

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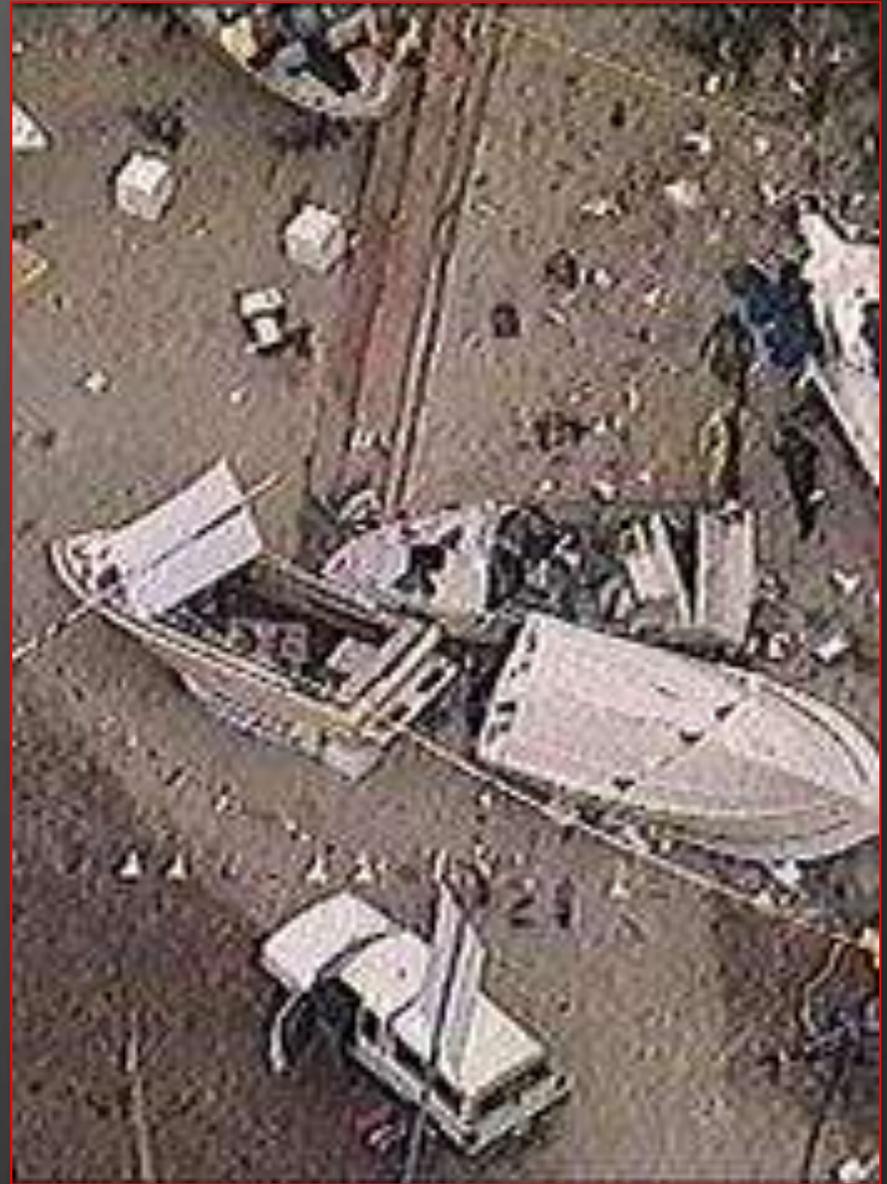
THE FILM AND ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION INDUSTRY RESPONDS TO...



The Midnight Rider Tragedy

Transportation Accidents Have Triggered Major Film Industry Safety Initiatives

- 1982: Helicopters & aerial scenes – *Twilight Zone*
3 fatalities
- 1997: Boats & marine scenes – *Gone Fishin'* 1 dead
- 2014: Railroad trains
Midnight Rider – 1 fatality, 6 injuries



Hollywood is beset with Myths about Railroads...

- ⦿ There are abandoned (“dead”) tracks available for use without contracts or charges...
- ⦿ A railroad is just another location with a train running through it...
- ⦿ Sending two radio-equipped production assistants down the tracks a mile in each direction is an adequate safety plan...
- ⦿ Train scenes can be done “on-the-cheap” and quickly...

The Most Dangerous Railroad Myth:
**“Stealing a shot” on a railroad is cool
and creative.**

A Formula for Tragedy

Hollywood Myths

+

Financial Pressures

+

Pursuit of a “money shot”

+

Ego and Hubris

Midnight Rider



SOME EVENTS MAKE MORE NEWS THAN OTHERS.
ALL ARE TRAGEDIES; ALL ARE PREVENTABLE.



VARIETY

'Midnight Rider' Director Pleads Guilty, Gets Two Years in Prison

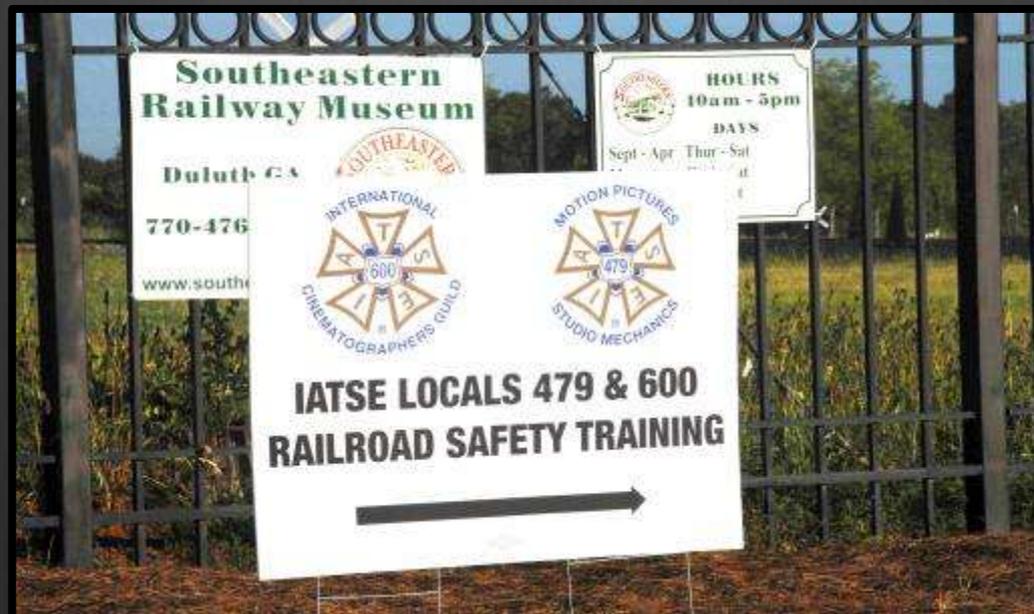
IMDb

'Midnight Rider' 1st A.D. Hillary Schwartz Found Guilty of Involuntary Manslaughter and Criminal Trespass

10 March 2015 8:34 AM, PDT | [Indiewire](#) | [See recent Indiewire news »](#)

Within 30 days of the event, three key organizations were developing response plans...

ASSOCIATION OF FILM COMMISSIONERS INTERNATIONAL
INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES,
LOCAL 479 STUDIO MECHANICS (ATLANTA)
INTERNATIONAL CAMERA GUILD, IATSE LOCAL 600 –
CENTRAL REGION



Association of Film Commissioners International

2014 WEBINAR
2015 CINEPOSIUM SAFETY PANEL
2015 LOCATIONS SHOW

ENHANCING PRODUCTION ACCESS TO LOCAL RAILROAD RESOURCES

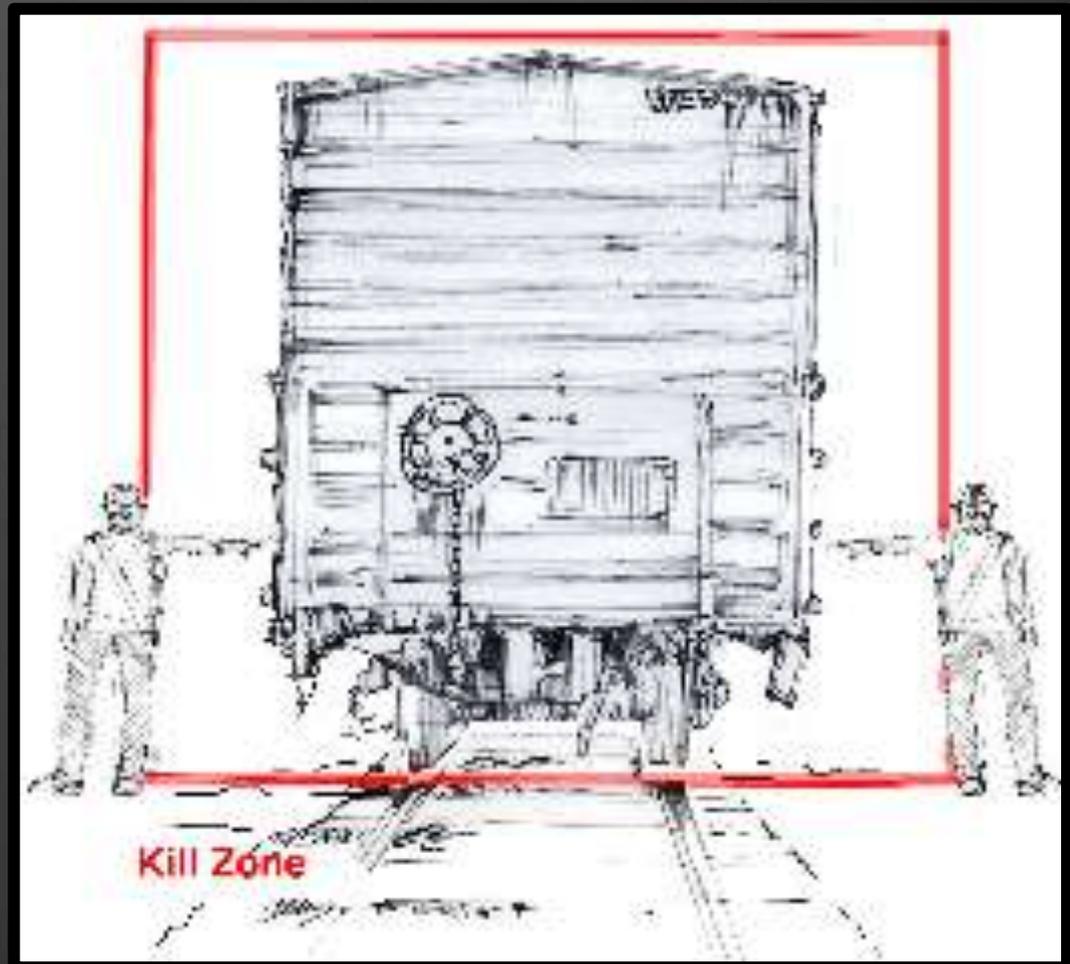
A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE
FROM THE
ASSOCIATION OF FILM COMMISSIONERS INTERNATIONAL

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AN ESSENTIAL SAFETY TOOL -- Film Crew Training

IMPORTANT:

Training must cover host railroad physical characteristics including project's unique risks and hazards



IATSE LOCAL 479 STUDIO MECHANICS
INTERNATIONAL CAMERA GUILD (IATSE LOCAL 600)

Basic Rail Safety Awareness for Film and Entertainment Industry Workers



ATLANTA, GEORGIA = 61 PASSED EXAM [SOLD OUT BOTH DAYS]

IATSE LOCAL 492 STUDIO MECHANICS
INTERNATIONAL CAMERA GUILD (IATSE LOCAL 600)
AND
TENNESSEE FILM, ENTERTAINMENT & MUSIC COMMISSION



NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

56 PASSED EXAM

[SRO AGAIN]

Key IATSE/ICG Rail Safety Classroom Topics

- ⦿ Railroad's on-screen production values
- ⦿ Film and rail industry cultural differences
- ⦿ Safety – The Railroad Industry's #1 Priority
- ⦿ Essential railroad location preparations – planning and location scouting, operations contracts, Railroad Protective Insurance policies, site risk/hazard survey, railroad carrier supervision plan
- ⦿ How to recognize a safe railroad set
- ⦿ ***“If you see something, say something.”*** applies to any unsafe situation

Practical Field Experience and Qualification Exam



GIVE SAFETY THE “HIGH GREEN”

- AN ORGANIZED PRODUCTION IS INHERENTLY SAFE
- A SAFE SET CONTRIBUTES TO OUTSTANDING ON-SCREEN PRODUCTION VALUES



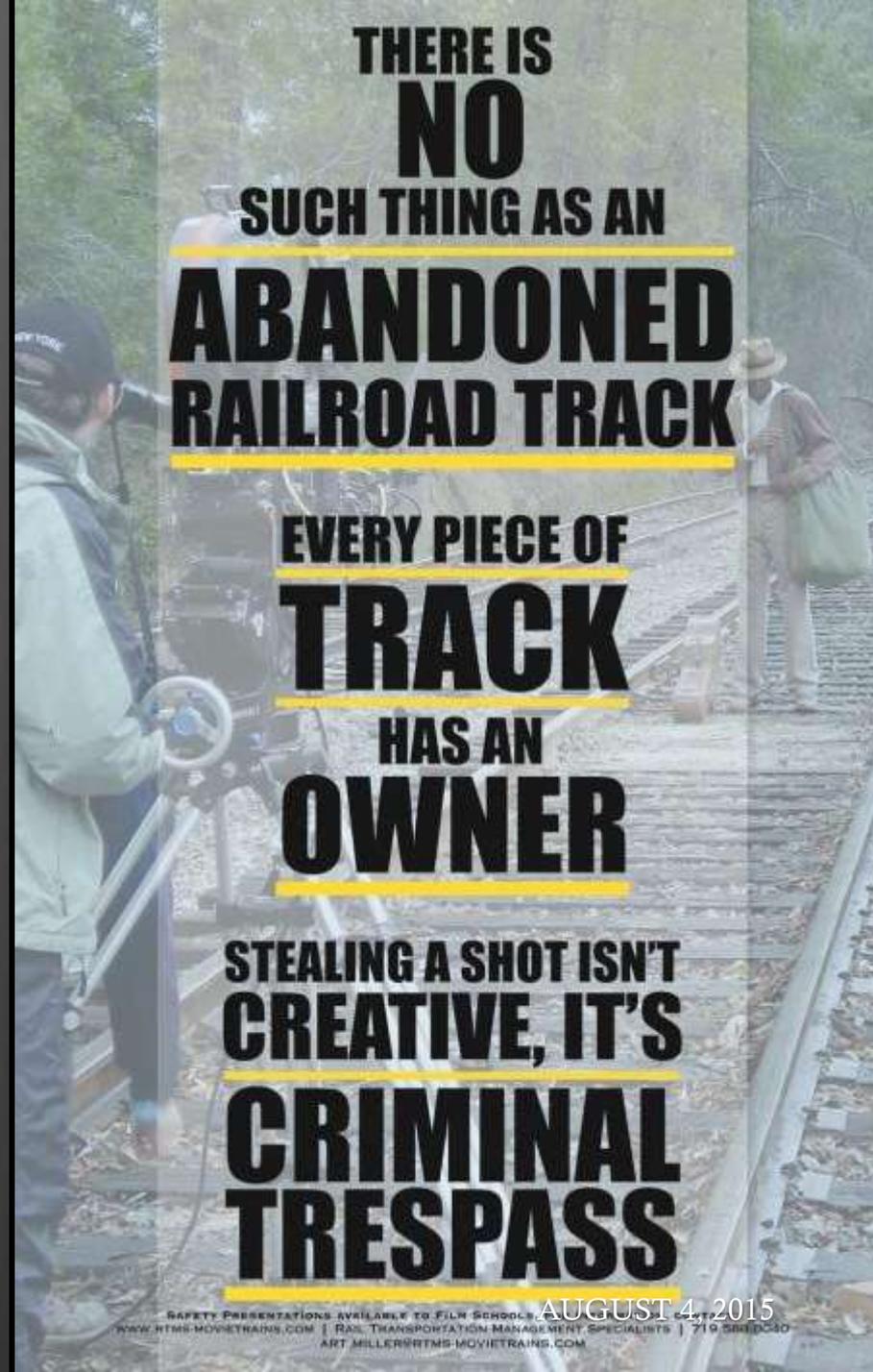
Looking ahead in the film and entertainment production industry...

IATSE + ICG Program in Chicago
Exploring expanded program on West Coast



Rail safety education opportunities...

Outreach to micro budget films and social media content producers





The Root Cause & Scope of Right-of-Way Trespass

It's An Epidemic

The Root Cause...

Railroads battle a deeply-held INCORRECT cultural belief:

Most people believe...

Railroad
Rights-of-Way
are not private
property!



Q. How big is the rail industry's Trespass problem?

A. Likely larger than we suspect.

EXAMPLE:

Local musician and his colleague take promotional photos on Southwestern Railroad,
Carlsbad Division, MP 88.3

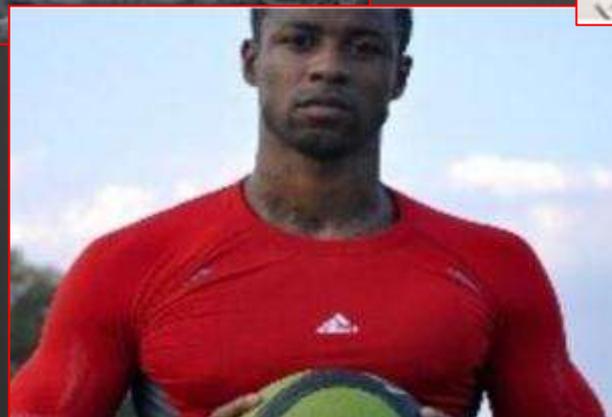


THE FACES OF RECENT HIGH-PROFILE TRESPASSER FATALITIES

Greg Plitt - Burbank



Chris O'Guinn - Fresno



Achilles Williams - Atlanta

Rail Trespassing Prevention Opportunities

Continuing education and information campaigns are
still required for:

Film and visual arts schools

Casual/recreational photographers

Social Media Commercial Content Creators

Wannabe Stuntmen

In a world with \$400 Go-Pro cameras, near-instant uploads, and dozens of media platforms...



...sending *effective* safety messages will be a monumental challenge !

We must not forget the survivors....



Stephanie Lopez, Chris O'Guinn model

THE END



1957 OR 1997?
COALWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA OR KINGSTON, TENNESSEE?
THE STORY-TELLING POWER OF THE RAILROAD

QUESTIONS?



For Additional Information
Concerning this Presentation.

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