

Illinois Rail Safety Week



2014



2015



Illinois Rail Safety Week



Why have a week dedicated to rail safety?

The **Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (IACAP) Traffic Safety Committee** recognizes the importance of tying together the educational and engineering components of rail safety to the enforcement component of rail safety that law enforcement agencies can bring to the table.

In order to coordinate this statewide effort, the IACAP Traffic Safety Committee turned the idea into a reality by building partnerships and implementing the first ever Illinois Rail Safety Week event in 2014. This week was held from September 14th to September 20th.

By combining the resources of both public and private entities in terms of the 3 “E’s” (Education, Enforcement, and Engineering) during a statewide effort, a common goal can be achieved; to save lives and prevent injuries.





Illinois Rail Safety Week



Why have a week dedicated to rail safety?

Look at the rail system that exists within Illinois...



According to the **Illinois Commerce Commission** (ICC):

- There is more than 7,400 miles of railroad track within Illinois, the second largest rail system of any state in the U.S.
- All 7 Class 1 railroads in the U.S. operate within Illinois (BNSF, CN, CP, CSX, KCS, NS, UP), in addition to about 50 smaller railroads.
- 12,048 level crossings exist within Illinois (7,783 public: 3,905 private: 360 pedestrian).
- 2,670 public highway rail structures exist within Illinois (1,729 over: 941 under).
- More than 500 million tons of freight moves on rails within Illinois each year, which is the most of any state in the U.S.
- About 20 million tons of chemicals, many of which are hazardous, are transported on the rail system within Illinois each year.
- Chicago is the largest rail hub in the U.S. and the 3rd largest intermodal container/trailer port in the world, following only Singapore and Hong Kong.



Illinois Rail Safety Week



What is the MISSION of Illinois Rail Safety Week?

To promote EDUCATION, conduct ENFORCEMENT and promote continued ENGINEERING advances in an effort to raise public awareness which will lead to the prevention of collisions, deaths, and injuries at places where roadways cross railroad tracks, on railroad rights of way, and on railroad property.

Simply put, the mission of Illinois Rail Safety Week is to save lives and prevent tragedies.

Illinois has historically been in the top 5 within the United States in terms of rail grade crossing fatalities and trespass fatalities.

During 2013, Illinois ranked **3rd** in the U.S. in grade crossing fatalities with 16.

During 2013, Illinois ranked **2nd** in the U.S. in trespass fatalities with 26.

During 2014, Illinois ranked **2nd** in the U.S. in grade crossing fatalities with 21.

During 2014, Illinois ranked **3rd** in the U.S. in trespass fatalities with 35.

Is not one fatality too many?





Illinois Rail Safety Week



The 3 “E”s; Education, Engineering, and Enforcement as related to rail safety:

Education

Increase public awareness by educating both motorists and pedestrians about the dangers around railroad tracks, railroad yards, and railroad property so everyone makes safe decisions and understands how quickly he/she can unknowingly get into a dangerous, life threatening situation.

Engineering

Work with all involved entities to promote continued engineering research, innovation, and its implementation to improve the safety of railroad crossings for both motor vehicles and pedestrians.

Enforcement

Conduct sustained enforcement of traffic laws related to grade crossings and trespassing laws on railroad property in order to change future behavior.





Illinois Rail Safety Week



What is the **VISION** & long term goal of rail safety week?

- Create a working relationship amongst all stakeholders in terms of rail safety, from governmental agencies, private corporations, volunteer groups, and rail fans to achieve the mission of saving lives and preventing tragedies.
- Make law enforcement entities more aware of the dangers associated with railroads in order to keep both officers and the public safe. Many law enforcement officers are unfamiliar with the dangers associated with the rails.
- Make law enforcement entities more aware of what railroad related violations exist so appropriate enforcement and educational campaigns can be implemented on a **sustained basis**; beyond rail safety week.
- Provide all stakeholders with educational materials (specific to law enforcement, private agencies, and the general public) for download via the website; www.illinoisrailsafetyweek.org
- Take Illinois Rail Safety Week beyond the borders of Illinois by helping facilitate a Midwest Rail Safety Week during 2016, and a National Rail Safety Week in 2017.





Illinois Rail Safety Week



How will rail safety week be **sustained** and funded over the test of time?

- The ILACP Traffic Safety Committee will continue to be a driving force and the primary sponsoring agency by keeping Rail Safety Week as one of priorities.
- By involving and building partnerships with an array of agencies and individuals who understand the importance of rail safety. From individual citizens, rail fans, governmental agencies both large and small, non profit organizations, elected officials, educational institutions, and railroad related vendors/manufacturers.
- The above mentioned cross section of stakeholders will bring forth a broad range of perspectives, knowledge, expertise, insight, and personalities who all have a vested interest in the continuation of Rail Safety Week.
- Funding of Illinois Rail Safety Week will depend upon stakeholders to help fund and contribute to the event. Whether in terms of monetary donations, internal spending, or supplying materials, any amount will help the mission of Rail Safety Week.





Illinois Rail Safety Week



A summary of 2014, the inaugural year; getting started.

- Committee members began reaching out to agencies, both public and private. Word of mouth/telephone/email was the most effective way that the event was promoted.
- Committee members promoted rail safety week at various exhibitions, events and training classes.
- Once an agency signed up, emails were regularly disseminated keeping everyone updated.
- Agencies were continuously steered toward the website, where materials could be downloaded for use that included:
 - **Governor's Proclamation**
 - **11 press release templates**
 - **Participation form that could be electronically submitted**
 - **List of Illinois Vehicle Code Railroad related offenses**
 - **Activity tracking sheet**
 - **Illinois Rail Safety Week Poster**
 - **15 educational flyers/brochures geared toward public & law enforcement**
 - **6 educational items geared toward children**



Statewide participation map that highlighted what entities signed up to participate along with all



Illinois Rail Safety Week



A summary of 2014, the inaugural year; the website.

Pictured below, and on the next two pages, are examples of items that were available for download and use via the website:



Illinois Rail Safety Week

September 14th - 20th, 2014

With support from the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, Illinois Operation Lifesaver, and the Illinois Truck Enforcement Association, the State of Illinois has declared the 3rd week in September of 2014 as Illinois Rail Safety Week. The State of Illinois is dedicated to public education and awareness to end collisions, deaths and injuries at places where roadways cross train tracks, and on railroad rights of way. To accomplish this, the three "E's" are promoted:

EDUCATION
Increase public awareness about the dangers around the rails by educating both motorists and pedestrians to make safe decisions at crossings and around railroad tracks.

ENGINEERING
Promote continued engineering research and innovation to improve the safety of railroad crossings.

ENFORCEMENT
Conduct active enforcement of traffic laws relating to crossing signs and signals and private property laws related to trespassing.

During Illinois Rail Safety Week, you will see police officers conducting enforcement at railroad grade crossings & railroad rights of way and distributing literature to help educate both motorists and pedestrians about railroad safety. By working together, we can make a difference! For more information about Illinois Rail Safety Week, please visit www.illinoisrailsafetyweek.org.

2013 Illinois Statistics	
2013 Crossing Collisions = 136	
Injuries	40
Fatalities	21
2013 Trespassing Incidents = 10	
Injuries	27
Fatalities	12
NEW! NEW! NEW! 2,512,000	

Illinois Rail Safety Week | Sample Press Releases

Tweet:

10 Tips to Save Your Life [DOC](#)
 Bicycle Safety Tips [DOC](#)
 Farm Machinery Operator Tips [DOC](#)
 Illinois Rail Facts [DOC](#)
 Initial Release for Individual Departments [DOC](#)
 Make Safety Your Priority [DOC](#)
 Passenger Rail Safety Tips [DOC](#)
 Pedestrian Safety Tips [DOC](#)
 Professional Driver Tips [DOC](#)
 Train vs Vehicle & Pedestrian Collisions [DOC](#)
 What Most Americans Do Not Know About Trains [DOC](#)

Click [HERE](#) to return to the Illinois Rail Safety Week homepage

Print This Page

September 14th - 20th, 2014 is Illinois Rail Safety Week

www.illinoisrailsafetyweek.org

Don't risk getting a costly citation or losing your life

Act Safely at Railroad Crossings

Preventing highway-rail grade crossing crashes is up to you!

Trains Can't Stop Abruptly... You Can

Stopping Clearance for The Average High-Clearance

Warning Devices

Public agencies are required to install and maintain with care all items of the following warning devices for your State to help make highway-railroad grade crossings safer for all concerned. Each agency may modify and/or delete these devices as long as the minimum standards are maintained.

Advance Warning Signs
Advance warning signs are required at grade crossings to give warning to those vehicles and pedestrians who are approaching a railroad crossing. Advance warning signs shall be placed at the following distances from the crossing:

- 1/2 mile for 2-lane roads
- 1/4 mile for 4-lane roads

Flashing Light Signals
Flashing light signals are used at railroad grade crossings to warn motorists and pedestrians of an approaching train. The flashing light signals shall be placed at the following distances from the crossing:

- 1/2 mile for 2-lane roads
- 1/4 mile for 4-lane roads

Stations
Stations are used with flashing light signals at railroad grade crossings to warn motorists and pedestrians of an approaching train. The flashing light signals shall be placed at the following distances from the crossing:

- 1/2 mile for 2-lane roads
- 1/4 mile for 4-lane roads

Driving Special Vehicles

Motorcycles
Motorcycles should approach all grade crossings slowly and with caution. Motorcycles should approach all grade crossings slowly and with caution. Motorcycles should approach all grade crossings slowly and with caution.

School Buses and Commercial Buses
School buses and commercial buses should approach all grade crossings slowly and with caution. School buses and commercial buses should approach all grade crossings slowly and with caution.

Trucks Carrying Hazardous Materials
Trucks carrying hazardous materials should approach all grade crossings slowly and with caution. Trucks carrying hazardous materials should approach all grade crossings slowly and with caution.

Be Especially Watchful At Night For Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Warning Signs
At night, motorists should be especially watchful for the advance warning signs and flashing light signals at grade crossings.

OPERATION LIFESAVER

Illinois

WARNING:

YOUR ACTIONS COULD HAVE JUST COST YOU A FINE OF \$500.00 OR EVEN WORSE, YOUR LIFE.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO STOP ON THE TRACKS IN YOUR VEHICLE AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON.

§11 Sec. 11-1425. Stop when traffic obstructed

(a) No driver shall enter an intersection at a railroad grade crossing or drive onto any railroad grade crossing unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection, approach or railroad grade crossing to accommodate the vehicle he is operating without obstructing the passage of other vehicles, pedestrians or railroad trains notwithstanding any traffic-control signal indication to proceed.

(b) No driver shall enter a highway rail grade crossing unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the highway rail grade crossing to accommodate the vehicle being operated without obstructing the passage of a train or other railroad equipment using the rails notwithstanding any traffic-control signal indication to proceed.

(c) The Secretary of State shall suspend for a period of one month the driving privileges of any person convicted of a violation of subsection (a) of this Section or a similar provision of a local ordinance. The Secretary shall suspend for a period of 3 months the driving privileges of any person convicted of a second or subsequent violation of subsection (a) of this Section or a similar provision of a local ordinance if the second or subsequent violation occurs within 6 years of a prior conviction by the same offender. In addition to the suspensions authorized by this Section, any person convicted of violating subsection (a) of this Section or a similar provision of a local ordinance shall be subject to a mandatory fine of \$500 or 50 hours of community service.



Illinois Rail Safety Week



A summary of 2014, the inaugural year; the website.



625 ILCS 5/11-706A2. Further limitations on driving to the left of center of roadway. This statute prohibits passing within 100 feet of or traversing any railroad grade crossing. Petty offense, \$120 bond, not a must appear.

625 ILCS 5/11-1011C. Bridge and railroad signals. This statute spells out a pedestrian cannot go around gate, disobey warning lights, bells, etc. Petty offense, \$120 bond. **MUST APPEAR IN COURT.** Carries with it a minimum fine of \$250 for first violation, and \$500 for second and subsequent violations. Good one for using around commuter stations.

625 ILCS 5/11-1201. Obedience to signal indicating approach of train or railroad track equipment. Self-explanatory. Petty offense, \$120 bond. **MUST APPEAR IN COURT.** Carries with it a \$250 fine for first violation and \$500 for second and subsequent violations. Second and subsequent violations may result in 6 month suspension.

625 ILCS 5/11-1202. Certain vehicles must stop at railroad grade crossings. Self-explanatory. Petty offense, \$120 bond, not a must appear. However, a conviction of this section will result in a 60 disqualification of a CDL for a first offense, and on up for subsequent offenses.

625 ILCS 5/11-1203. Moving heavy equipment at railroad grade crossing. Self-explanatory. Petty offense, \$120 bond, not a must appear.

625 ILCS 5/11-1303. Stopping, standing, or parking prohibited in specified places. 11-1303A(1)H prohibits parking on railroad tracks. Petty offense, \$120 bond. This violation carries with it a minimum fine or 50 hours of community service. Although offense code books do not mark this as a must appear, it is a **MUST APPEAR IN COURT** because of fine structure/community service option. 11-1303(3)A prohibits parking within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing. This is a petty offense, \$120 bond, not a must appear.

625 ILCS 5/11-1425B. Stop when traffic obstructed. This statute spells out that a vehicle cannot stop within a grade crossing and block the passage of a train. Petty offense, \$120 bond. **MUST APPEAR IN COURT.** First violation will result in a 1 month suspension, and 3 months for a second and subsequent violation. Carries with it a minimum fine of \$500 or 50 hours community service.

625 ILCS 625 5/18C-7502. Malicious removal of or damage to railroad property or freight. Self-explanatory. This an arrestable offense that ranges from a Class A Misdemeanor to a Class 4 Felony. A lot of parameters to this statute...obviously a **MUST APPEAR IN COURT.**

625 ILCS 5/18C-7503. Trespassing on railroad property; terminal security. This statute gives police officers an easier way to cite someone for trespassing on an IVC citation rather than making a custodial arrest. Class C Misdemeanor for first offense, and Class A Misdemeanor for second and subsequent offense. **MUST APPEAR IN COURT.** Minimum fine of \$150 and maximum fine of \$500 for first offense, and second and subsequent fine is \$500 minimum to \$1,000 maximum. Judge may also seek jail time. A lot of parameters to this statute...Good one for using around commuter stations too.



PRESS RELEASE
Release Immediately



Press Release #: (insert dept. # if applicable)
Contact: (insert department contact information)

Release Date: (insert date)

State of Illinois Proclaims September 14th - 20th Illinois Rail Safety Week

(insert your town name), IL - The State of Illinois, with support from the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, Illinois Commerce Commission, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Operation Lifesaver, Illinois Sheriff's Association, and the Illinois Truck Enforcement Association, has declared September 14th to September 20th as Illinois Rail Safety Week in order to promote vehicle and pedestrian safety around railroad tracks and trains. In Illinois during 2013, there were 124 crossing collisions involving motor vehicles, which resulted in 40 injuries and 21 fatalities. In addition, there were 52 trespasser incidents that resulted in 27 injuries and 25 fatalities when people trespassed on to railroad property. During 2013, Illinois ranked 3rd in the nation in both vehicle collision fatalities and trespasser fatalities.

To promote rail safety awareness and education, (insert your department name) will be participating in Illinois Rail Safety Week. Enforcement details are planned throughout the week.



PRESS RELEASE
Release Immediately



Press Release #: (insert dept. # if applicable)
Contact: (insert department contact information)

Release Date: (insert date)

Illinois Rail Safety Week - Make Safety Your Priority

(insert your town name), IL - During Illinois Rail Safety Week, which runs from September 14th to September 20th, the (insert department name) want 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 200 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 their 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 come.
- Get off your bike and walk it across the tracks.

When crossing railroad tracks, you must always follow the law and be aware of your surroundings! For more information about Illinois Rail Safety Week, please visit www.illinoisrailsafetyweek.org.

AUTHORITY: _____
(insert authorizing representative if applicable)

within the (insert town name) with railroad grade crossing literature to the tracks.

in the railroad tracks, railroad grade crossing, led on the pavement by rail grade crossing

all collisions occur at (insert town name). When crossing railroad tracks, please make safety your priority. For more information, visit www.illinoisrailsafetyweek.org.

(insert your town name) if applicable)



Illinois Rail Safety Week



A summary of 2014, the inaugural year; welcome letter.



Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police

August 20th, 2014

Illinois Rail Safety Week Participant,

Thank you for committing to the first ever, statewide effort focused on improving rail safety in Illinois! The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, along with all of our co-sponsors, want to commend your agency for partnering with 258 total agencies to date, which includes; 190 local police agencies, 26 sheriff departments, all 21 Illinois State Police Districts, 13 railroads/railroad police agencies, 5 associations/private firms, 2 fire agencies and 1 federal agency. In fact, more agencies continue to sign up on a daily basis, and this level of participation has greatly surpassed expectations of the organizers and clearly demonstrates that Illinois can, and will, work together in the interest of public safety. The next step is to prepare everyone for Illinois Rail Safety Week (IRSW), September 14th through September 20th, 2014. The following information will help guide your agency as you participate in IRSW 2014.

- The website, www.illinoisrailsafetyweek.org is being updated and content has been added. Agencies can visit the site to obtain useful educational/enforcement materials. Some samples have been enclosed with this letter.
- Many agencies have inquired about what "participation" means. Simply put, participation means **any** activity your agency does during IRSW designed to improve rail safety. Participation is customizable to your specific jurisdiction/agency needs and can be done to a level appropriate to staffing. Simply put, do as much or as little as your agency is able to during IRSW. Agencies can choose to focus on educational efforts, enforcement efforts or both. Here are some examples:
 - Focus enforcement efforts on motor vehicles, hazardous material haulers, or trespassers that disobey laws associated with railroad crossings. Officers/Deputies can, during their shift, pay special attention to crossings and cite violators, or inspect the rail lines for trespassers as they patrol.
 - Agencies may also address the educational component of rail safety. Examples include issuing press releases during the week, displaying posters/flyers, distributing educational materials at community events and/or commuter rail stations and platforms (such as AMTRAK and METRA), or by giving Operation Lifesaver presentations.
 - Agencies should consider contacting railroad companies/railroad police in their jurisdiction and asking them to participate in joint education/enforcement campaigns. For additional information or questions in regards to joint force activities, contact CN Special Agent Eric T. Graf at eric.graf@cn.ca
- Tracking of Activity - This is a crucial part of the process. If it isn't tracked, it didn't happen. Please review the enclosed Activity Tracking Sheet prior to the campaign. At the end of the campaign, we are asking for each participating agency to submit one

Each agency that signed up to participate received a copy of the welcome letter pictured. This letter provided instructions and gave guidance on how each agency could participate in Illinois Rail Safety Week to best suit the needs of the community/group they serve. Included with the letter were copies of many educational handouts, posters, flyers, etc. for agencies to copy and distribute (all were also available via website).

sheet denoting the total activity for that agency to the email or fax listed at the bottom. Many agencies may choose to provide a copy of the Activity Tracking Sheet to their officers/deputies/employees/volunteers prior to the campaign so that they are aware of what is expected. If your agency does this, please make every attempt to collect the individual sheets and tally them on a master sheet if possible. If not possible, please submit all individual sheets.

- We cannot stress enough the importance of completing and submitting the Activity Tracking Sheet. Please ensure that you count all activities conducted by your agency related to rail safety; every poster displayed, every hour officers/deputies/employees/volunteers spent conducting enforcement and/or education, every press release, every public event, etc. This is our primary way to measure the success and impact of the IRSW campaign.
- Finally, we ask that agencies submit copies of any pictures, press links, news releases or other relevant information depicting their efforts during IRSW to jogmen@illinoisrailsafetyweek.org or emumson@illinoisrailsafetyweek.org, as the committee plans on displaying these items on the website as we move the program forward.

Once again, thank you for your commitment to rail safety. We value your partnership and look forward to a successful beginning of what we hope to be a renewed and sustained focus on this area of traffic safety. If any agency needs additional assistance or has special needs, please contact one of the Illinois Rail Safety Week coordinators (jogmen@illinoisrailsafetyweek.org, emumson@illinoisrailsafetyweek.org, or eric.graf@cn.ca) and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

Yours Truly,

Lou Jogmen
Illinois Association Chiefs of Police
Traffic Safety Committee Chair



Illinois Rail Safety Week



A summary of 2014, the inaugural year; promoting the event.

Committee members set up and staffed informational booths at police exhibitions and other venues where agencies filled out participation forms on site. Once the forms were completed by the participating agency, the information was added into the database by Committee members. The agency was then listed on the website as a participant, and added to the email thread.

Items, such as the cups below, were handed out to law enforcement personnel at the events to remind them of the website and date. Hundreds of these cups were also handed out to the public during educational/enforcement blitzes. Also pictured below is the informational booth staffed by Committee member Eric Graf the Midwest Security and Police Conference & Expo in August and Committee member Lou Jogmen encouraging agencies to participate.





Illinois Rail Safety Week



A summary of 2014, the inaugural year; the results.

Pictured is an activity sheet that summarizes what was accomplished in terms of enforcement and education. In sum, 286 agencies signed up to participate, which far exceeded the initial goal of 100 set by the Committee. Not every agency that signed up participated or simply did not submit an activity sheet. 186 (65.03%) activity sheets were returned. Actual participants included:

- 132 municipal police departments
- 14 County Sheriff Departments
- 19 of 21 Illinois State Police Districts
- 13 Railroads and their police departments
- 8 other agencies







Illinois Rail Safety Week
September 14th - 20th, 2014
Activity Tracking




Campaign Totals

Media/Educational Efforts:

Operation Lifesaver Presentations Given	Posters/Signs Displayed	Flyers Distributed	Banners Displayed	Press Conferences
140	1,521	44,179	171	4
Press Releases Issued	Internet Based Announcements	Radio Announcements	Television Outlets	Other
176	200	60	19	579

Hours dedicated to education: 1,108

Enforcement Efforts:

Number of Citations/Warnings	Warnings	Citations
5/11-702A2. Passing within 100' or while traversing crossing.	22	4
5/11-1011C. Pedestrian disobeying bells, signals, gates, lights, etc.	499	106
5/11-1201. Obedience to signal indicating approach of train	155	172
5/11-1202. Certain vehicles must stop at crossings (buses, haz mat, etc.)	17	29
5/11-1203. Moving heavy equipment at crossing	4	0
5/11-1303. Stopping, standing or parking in prohibited places	66	18
5/11-1425B. Stopping when traffic obstructed.	46	46
5/18C-7502. Malicious removal or damage to railroad property	0	2
5/18e-7503. Trespassing on railroad property	167	54
Other Citations	215	281
Totals	1,191	712

Hours dedicated to enforcement: 2,487

Agencies signed up = 286
 Activity sheets submitted = 186
 Activity sheets outstanding = 91
 Agencies documented that did not participate = 9
 Percent returned to date = 65.03





Illinois Rail Safety Week



A summary of 2014, the inaugural year; the funding.



Illinois Rail Safety Week was funded with a \$10,000.00 grant received from CN Railroad via its Stronger Communities Fund. In addition, CN Railroad provided a variety of educational handouts to agencies that formally requested such items, and covered other incidental costs such as postage.

No other funding sources were available for the event and participating agencies took it upon themselves to create, download and print, and purchase handouts for the event. Committee members also relied on both public and private agencies to provide no cost advertising, such as the Illinois Department of Transportation, Clear Channel Outdoor, Inc., local businesses, and educational institutions, to name a few.





Illinois Rail Safety Week



A summary of 2014, the inaugural year; in pictures.





Illinois Rail Safety Week



A summary of 2014, the inaugural year; in pictures.





Illinois Rail Safety Week



A summary of 2014, the inaugural year; recognition.

The Committee realizes the importance of recognizing those agencies who excelled during Rail Safety Week. About 25 agencies received a certificate of appreciation. The certificate was framed and included a patch, as shown lower right. In addition, every department that participated received a thank you letter and a patch.





Illinois Rail Safety Week



A summary of 2014, the inaugural year; lessons learned and the transition/planning into 2015.



The Committee is proud of its accomplishments during the inaugural year and is grateful for all the efforts put forth by agencies/individuals that participated. However, as with most events of this magnitude, there will always be room for improvement. Key areas for improvement (**most of which are already taking place**) in 2015 are:

- Starting event organizational processes earlier.
- Maintain agencies that participated in 2014 to again participate in 2015.
- Get more participation from railroads.
 - **Only 13 railroads participated during 2014.**



CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY





Illinois Rail Safety Week



A summary of 2014, the inaugural year; lessons learned and the transition/planning into 2015.

- Involve, or get more involvement, from federal, state, county, local, private, and educational (colleges and universities) agencies/institutions.
 - Only 14 of 102 County Sheriff Departments participated during 2014.
 - Most efforts put forth were by smaller municipal departments. Thus get larger municipal police departments to participate or put forth more effort.
- Secure additional funding sources, conduct fundraisers, and provide an easy means for agencies/individuals to donate monetarily to the event.
 - Only funding and monetary support received was from CN Railroad.
- Recognize agencies that excel (both in terms of education and enforcement) with suitable awards and allow for agencies to nominate individuals to be recognized as well.





Illinois Rail Safety Week



A summary of 2014, the inaugural year; lessons learned and the transition/planning into 2015.



- Promote/advertise event on a larger scale.
 - Improve website, to include the addition of links to other rail safety related websites, and a distinction between individual and agency participation.
 - Issue license plates through State of Illinois with 2015 rail safety patch displayed.
 - Create and distribute promotional items such as “challenge” coins.
 - Attend more expositions and events to solicit participation.
 - Get keynote speaker(s) and media outlets at a “kick off” event.
 - Create and use public service announcements on a larger scale, such as television ads, radio ads, social media ads, electronic billboards, and professional athlete/team endorsements and appearances.
 - Make more items available for distribution such as cups, pencils, flyers, posters, banners, etc.





Illinois Rail Safety Week



A summary of 2014, the inaugural year; lessons learned and the transition/planning into 2015.

- Track whether or not **Mission** of Illinois Rail Safety Week is being achieved in terms of reducing railroad related incidents, injuries, and fatalities.
 - During Illinois Rail Safety Week 2014, there was not a single railroad related incident reported within Illinois. No property damage, no injuries, and no fatalities (excluding suicides).
 - Although Mission was achieved during Illinois Rail Safety Week 2014, annual reduction must be realized for Mission to be ultimately achieved.
- **LIVES MUST BE SAVED AND TRAGEDIES MUST BE PREVENTED!**
- Illinois Rail Safety Week is a step in the right direction to reduce railroad related incidents within the State of Illinois and across the nation. No matter where most people live or travel, they will always be around railroad tracks, railroad yards, and railroad property.





Illinois Rail Safety Week



For Additional Information Concerning this Presentation.

Please contact Louis Jogmen @
LJogmen@parkridgepolice.org

