



Sunflower State Signal

Official Publication of Kansas Operation Lifesaver, Inc.

Coordinator's Corner



Is it September already?! Time to gear up for Rail Safety Week! In this issue I've included all kinds of RSW info graphics, videos, and even more info can be found at OLI.org under About Us.

Aaron and I have been busy this quarter with geofencing crossings and getting K-State PSAs ready to launch for football season. While we are handling the mass media, we hope you are working with people one on one. While radio and electronic messages are great, we know only with face to face can you really drive the rail safety message home.

With the same thought of personal contact, I have attached the RISC flyer to page 4 please take a moment and pass it on to your local first responders and encourage them to participate. We also need instructors. The program is going so well that Matt is going to need some help.

Happy Rail Safety Week!

Jessica Mays

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Rail Safety Week Approaches

The first Rail Safety Week was organized by OLI to celebrate its 45th year and its mission of reducing collisions, fatalities and injuries at highway-rail crossings and preventing trespassing on or near railroad tracks. It became a nationwide event in 2017.

In 2018 and 2019, Canada Operation Lifesaver and OLI began the "Stop Track Tragedies" campaign which soon became a major theme of Rail Safety Week.

In 2020 Mexico joined the Rail Safety Week observance bringing in the three largest countries in North America. RSW has grown quickly to include countless partners from local first responders to major railways and federal agencies.

Join us for Rail Safety Week, September 20-26! Together we can stop track tragedies.

Again, this year OLI has partnered with Amtrak to bring about Operation Clear Track on Tuesday September 21. During Operation Clear Track more than 500 local, state, federal and railroad police organizations are stationed at grade crossings across the country to distribute safety materials to motorists and pedestrians and reinforce the importance of crossing and trespass laws.

All first responders, including firefighters, Emergency Medical Services and Offices of Emergency Management are encouraged to post lifesaving grade crossing safety and trespass prevention information for drivers and pedestrians on their websites and share on social media. To register your department for Operation Clear Track contact Barb Petito, petitob@amtrack.com





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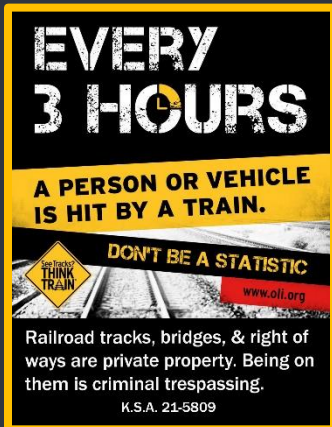
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Advertisement run in the
Kansas Wildlife 2021
Fishing Regulations

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR RSW?

The KS OL Board and State Coordinators encourage you to think of something you can do for Rail Safety Week.

The more people and communities that are involved the easier it is to spread the rail safety message and the more fun the week is!

If you have an idea shoot us a message, even if it has a price tag attached. We will look at the budget and see if we can cover it. If it's free and you need assistance reaching out to someone let us know, we can help!

Even if you can't participate in the community for RSW please make sure to share KS OL and OLI's social media posts.

Share your Rail Safety Week ideas and maybe the KS OL Board can make them a reality.

Don't forget to send us your photos and to share them on our Facebook page. We want to see Red Out for Rail Safety!



RAIL SAFETY WEEK SCHEDULE

Day	Theme	Audience
Monday 9/20	#STOPTrackTragedies	News Media, Government Officials, OLI Partners, General Public
Tuesday 9/21	Operation Clear Track	Law Enforcement and First Responders
Wednesday 9/22	Crossing Safety	General Public, Farmers, New Drivers, Outdoor Enthusiasts, People Experiencing Homelessness
Thursday 9/23	Transit Safety Thursday & Professional Driver Safety	Transit and Commuter Riders, Professional Drivers, School Bus Drivers
Friday 9/24	Wear Red for Rail Safety	All Audiences
Saturday 9/25	Trespass Prevention	General Public, Pedestrians, Cyclists, Joggers, Outdoor Enthusiasts, College Students, People Experiencing Homelessness
Sunday 9/26	No Photo/Video/Selfie is Worth the Risk	Photographers (Professional & Amateur)

Rail Safety Week materials can be found on the [OLI website](http://www.oli.org)



KS OL PSAs ON K-STATE RADIO



KS OL will have agriculture focused PSAs playing during every football game.

Beginning September 4th KS OL will have new agricultural focused PSAs running before or after all K-State football games until November 26th.

Once again KS OL was able to get an amazing voice to deliver the message; Dave Lewis, K-State's Public Address Announcer for Football and Men's Basketball.

The PSA script was recently developed by OLI as a part of their new agriculture focused materials. The PSAs will play around the state reminding those driving farm equipment and other large machinery that "Trains are everywhere. You should always expect one, even on

private property. Only cross tracks at designated crossings that fit your equipment. If you don't fit, don't commit. Whatever you're operating, Secure your load. Raise your equipment and avoid getting stuck or causing damage. Minimize distractions. Remember, noisy equipment drowns out the sound of a train. Unless you're crossing, always keep a safe distance from train tracks. LOOK. LISTEN. LIVE. For more information, go to oli.org"

Kansas Incidents 2021

Trespassing Incidents

6

Deaths

4

Injuries

2

Crossings Incidents

9

Deaths

1

Injuries

1

Total Incidents

15

Deaths

5

Injuries

2

These numbers are subject to change as the FRA is still investigating cases. Their numbers will be updated as cases close not as incidents happen.

KS OL OUT & ABOUT



Schueltz Driving School has been a longtime partner with KS OL. They are now making sure even parents dropping kids off get the message.



Railroad Investigation and Safety Course (RISC) instructor Captain Matt Vogt from Valley Center PD gives a class to the Kansas Highway Patrol recruits in Salina, KS.

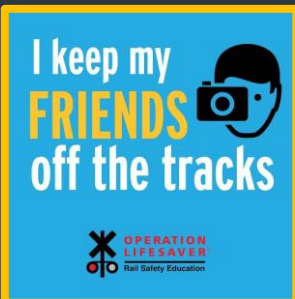
UP COMING EVENTS

September 9th, 2:00 – 4:00 pm: KS OL Board & Committee Meeting
Great Overland Station: 701 N Kansas Ave, Topeka, KS 66608

September 20-26th: Rail Safety Week

October 2-3 & 9-10: Railfest Great Plains Transportation Museum, Wichita
(OLAVs needed)

November 10th, 11:00: KS OL Board & Committee Meeting



RAILROAD INVESTIGATION & SAFETY COURSE

RISC

The Railroad Investigation and Safety Course provides first responders with critical information allowing them to effectively respond to and safely investigate incidents involving the railroad.

OFFERED BY

Kansas Operation Lifesaver

ABOUT

Up to 4 hours of free training is offered in person or via Zoom on the topic of how to work railroad incidents. This includes collisions with motor vehicles, pedestrians, other trains, derailments and working incidents near or on railroad property.

CONTACT

Captain Matt Vogt with the
Valley Center Police Department
316-755-7325, ext 304 or
email mvogt@valleycenterks.org.

MORE INFO

oli.org/info/first-responders/railroad-investigation-and-safety-course

MODULE 1

RAIL SAFETY 101

- Safety issues in the railroad environment
- Signs and signals at a railroad crossing
- Developing advanced preparation information
- Railroad contacts and facilities

MODULE 2

ON-SCENE SAFETY & SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- Safety considerations while responding to an incident
- Ensuring on-scene safety
- Identifying your location
- Key safety points to live by

MODULE 3

RAIL RESOURCES & INITIAL REPORT INFORMATION

- Familiarization with rail cars, locomotives and train documents
- Railroad personnel and rail related equipment
- Common crimes against the railroad; rail equipment of evidentiary value
- Available partner resources to aid with scene safety and investigation

MODULE 4

RAIL INCIDENT CONCLUSION

- Taking proper steps to ensure the rail scene is clear
- Documentation of rail incidents on state crash reporting forms
- How train incidents may affect the community and support for prosecution
- Operation Lifesaver and Federal Railroad Administration safety education programs

This course is offered in one, two, or four-hour formats and is **FREE**