

Wisconsin Railroad Association

BNSF
CN
Canadian Pacific
WSOR/Watco
Tomahawk Railway

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

Governor Scott Walker has declared September 24 – 30, 2017 as Rail Safety Week in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation is joining with the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads, Wisconsin Operation Lifesaver, Federal Railroad Administration and the railroads to increase awareness of safe practices at railroad crossings and the dangers of trespassing near tracks. Events are planned across the state.

Wisconsin has held Rail Safety Week for several years and this great idea has now caught on nationally. This year for the first time, Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI), the national rail safety education nonprofit, is working in partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation and other organizations to observe the first national Rail Safety Week.

It's a startling fact that about every three hours in the U.S., a person or vehicle is hit by a train. In Wisconsin, the number of crashes at railroad crossings were up from 2015. In 2016, 2 people were killed and 15 people were injured as a result of 46 railroad crossing crashes. Additionally, 1 person died and 3 people were injured while trespassing on railroad tracks. These deaths and injuries were preventable.

Here is a list of events planned throughout Wisconsin in coordination with Rail Safety Week 2017:

Date	Time	Location	Event
Friday – Sunday Sept. 22 – 24	Booth Friday – Sunday Parade – Sunday 2:00 p.m.	Warrens	Cranberry Fest Booth and Parade
Saturday, Sept. 23	AM	Barron	Canadian National (CN) Crossing Enforcement Blitz
Sunday, Sept. 24	Noon to 5:00 p.m.	Eau Claire	Chippewa Valley Railroad
Throughout the week	Monday – Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Green Bay	Operation Lifesaver Booth
	Wednesday – Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Colfax	Operation Lifesaver Booth
	Saturday & Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Wisconsin Dells	Operation Lifesaver Booth

Monday, Sept. 25	6:00 a.m.	Milwaukee Intermodal Station	Live WTMJ broadcast
	6:30 a.m.	Oak Creek - Oakwood Rd. across the street from the Cellar Pub and Grill	Canadian Pacific (CP) Crossing Enforcement Blitz
	NOON	Milwaukee – site TBD	Union Pacific (UP) Crossing Enforcement Blitz
Tuesday, Sept. 26	6:15 a.m. to 8:25 a.m.	Milwaukee – Chicago round trip	Transit Safety - Amtrak Hiawatha
	9:00 a.m. to NOON	Caledonia Marinette Marshfield Sturtevant Wauwatosa	Operation Clear Track Enforcement Blitz
	1:00 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.	Madison	Wisconsin & Southern Railroad (WSOR) Officer on the Train
Wednesday, Sept. 27	9:00 a.m.	Appleton	Canadian National (CN) Officer on the Train
	1:00 p.m.	Oconto Falls	Escanaba and Lake Superior (ELS) Officer on the Train
Thursday, Sept. 28	6:00 a.m.	Tomahawk	Tomahawk Railway (TR) Officer on the Train
	11:00 a.m.	Chippewa sub	Chippewa Sub Officer on the Train
Friday, Sept. 29	6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.	Superior - Hammond Avenue crossing near Winter Street	Crossing Enforcement Blitz
		UW Superior	Operation Lifesaver Booth
Saturday, Sept. 30	10:00 a.m.	La Crosse	Octoberfest Parade

Additional resources

- Operation Lifesaver website: <https://oli.org/>
- WisDOT YouTube video:
 - WisDOT 2017 Rail Safety Week: <https://youtu.be/sM-ChKT6Ubo>
 - An interview with a rare train crash survivor will be released on Sunday, September 24.