

A Message from Metra's CEO

Operation Lifesaver

Beginning in 1986 with its first national office, Operation Lifesaver was created to increase awareness of highway-rail grade crossing issues. Volunteers and trained instructors work together to offer educational presentations to schools, communities, and emergency responders regarding railroad safety. Metra has partnered with Operation Lifesaver since 1992.

To schedule an Operation Lifesaver presentation, please contact our Public Safety Coordinator at 312-735-9735.



Alex Clifford

The Safety of our employees, passengers and the general public is Metra's top priority, which is why we remain proactive in reinforcing the importance of railroad safety with ongoing public awareness activities. Metra's ongoing efforts to improve safety throughout our system include numerous programs which incorporate education, engineering and enforcement activities. We hope to work together as a community to support the continued education of railroad safety.



RAILROAD CROSSING SAFETY TIPS

Look, Listen, Live



547 W Jackson Blvd
Chicago, IL 60661
www.metrail.com

Know the Facts

- ◆ A commuter train traveling 79 miles per hour can take a mile or more to stop. That's 18 football fields!

- ◆ Always cross the tracks at the pedestrian or highway crossings. Crossing anywhere else is considered trespassing.



- ◆ Do not walk around or behind lowered gates at a crossing. Never cross the tracks until the lights have stopped flashing and it is safe to do so.

- ◆ Never go between, under or over coach cars, even when they are stopped at a station. The train crew cannot see you and could start the train at any moment, causing serious injury.



- ◆ **Before boarding:** Always stand behind the yellow line!

Don't Be Fooled

- ◆ The speed of an approaching train may appear to be moving slower than it actually is!



- ◆ Do not cross the tracks immediately after your train passes. Often times a second train might be blocked by the first. **Look** both ways before crossing.

- ◆ The locomotive may not always be in front. Metra commuter operations use cab cars to shove in one direction, and locomotives to pull in the other. **Note:** Electric High-liner cars can be operated from either end.



- ◆ **Watch the gap:** When boarding and detraining at elevated station platforms.



Highway-Rail Crossing Warnings

Passive Signs

- ◆ At a public railroad crossing, drivers will see an advance warning sign and pavement markings.
- ◆ The crossbuck is a basic warning sign required at all public crossings.



Active Warning Devices

- ◆ Automatic warning devices are placed in high vehicular traffic crossings.
- ◆ All signals activate when a train reaches a pre-determined distance from the crossing to warn pedestrians and motorists of an approaching train.

