



WESTERN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE



Western Springs Police Participating in the Annual Illinois Rail Safety Week

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Western Springs, IL, September 18, 2019 – The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) has asked the Governor of the State of Illinois to declare September 22nd to 28th 2019, as Illinois Rail Safety Week. Western Springs Police Department is taking a proactive approach to promote vehicle and pedestrian safety around railroad tracks and trains through both education and enforcement. The ILACP is coordinating the sixth, statewide Illinois Rail Safety Week in partnership with Metra, CN Railroad, and Illinois Operation Lifesaver along with support from state, county, and local law enforcement agencies, railroads, schools, and various private sector agencies.

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In addition, Operation Lifesaver has declared the same week as National Rail Safety Week, and the ILACP is proud to be part of the national effort. In Illinois during 2018, there were 86 collisions at public highway-rail crossings involving motor vehicles or pedestrians, which resulted in 26 injuries and 15 fatalities. In addition, there were 40 trespasser incidents that resulted in 18 injuries and 22 fatalities when people trespassed onto railroad property. During 2018, Illinois ranked 3rd in the nation in collision fatalities and 5th in the nation in trespasser fatalities.

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To promote rail safety awareness and education, the Western Springs Police will be participating in Illinois Rail Safety Week. Enforcement details are planned throughout the week at various railroad grade crossings and commuter stations within Western Springs to cite both drivers and pedestrians who disobey the laws associated with railroad grade crossings and railroad property. In addition, police officers will be distributing pamphlets to the public that contain information on how to be safe around trains and train tracks please visit www.illinoisrailsafetyweek.org or contact the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police.

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