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Dear Neighbors,

Did you know that every three hours in the United States, a person or vehicle is hit by a train? Our agency supports an annual effort to keep our communities and citizens safe around railroad tracks and trains.

This year, September 21-27 is Rail Safety Week in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. In years past, police and sheriff's departments have participated in "Operation Clear Track," the largest single railroad safety law enforcement program in the country. This event is hosted by Amtrak (www.amtrak.com) and Operation Lifesaver Inc. (www.oli.org). In previous years during the event, law enforcement personnel reported to railroad grade crossings and spoke to drivers and pedestrians in person about staying safe around railroad tracks.

Due to COVID-19, we will not be holding in-person rail safety events this year. Instead, we invite you to join our virtual Operation Clear Track effort to share this critical safety message. We are sharing safety videos, social media posts, and other materials reminding our citizens about the dangers of trespassing on railroad property and failing to obey the laws at railroad crossings. Please share them online with your friends and family.

Without question, the pandemic has seriously impacted our personal and professional lives. However, railroad-related deaths and injuries continue to occur in our communities. We appreciate your help in spreading the word, to prevent these incidents from ever impacting our friends and loved ones. More information on Rail Safety Week is available at oli.org/rsw.

Thank you for caring, and please stay safe everyone.

Chief Scott J. Stewart

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