SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS – Illinois Rail Safety Week kicked off on September 22 and will run through September 28, 2019. To promote rail safety awareness and education, the Springfield Police Department will be conducting enforcement details at various railroad crossings and commuter stations, citing both drivers and pedestrians who disobey laws related to railroad crossings and property.

In 2018, there were 86 collisions at Illinois public highway-rail crossings involving motor vehicles or pedestrians, which resulted in 26 injuries and 15 fatalities. In addition, there were 40 incidents in which individuals trespassed onto railroad properties that resulted in 18 injuries and 22 fatalities. Illinois ranked third in the nation in collision fatalities and fifth in the nation in trespasser fatalities.

The Springfield Police Department would like to remind citizens that it is not only illegal to stop your vehicle on the railroad tracks but it is also illegal to stop anywhere within the highway-rail grade crossings. Highway-rail grade crossings are typically marked by white stop lines on the pavement prior to the crossing. If the crossing is not indicated by white markings, the crossing extends from protective gate arm to protective gate arm.

This year marks the sixth year of the education campaign and is a collaborative effort between the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, Metra, CN Railroad, Illinois Operation Lifesaver and law enforcement agencies throughout the state, and runs in conjunction with national Rail Safety Week.

For additional information about Illinois Rail Safety Week, please visit www.illinoisrailsafetyweek.org.

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