



OFFICE OF THE  
**COMMISSIONER OF RAILROADS**  
STATE OF WISCONSIN

**JEFF PLALE, COMMISSIONER**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NOW THAT SCHOOL HAS STARTED, HERE'S ANOTHER SAFETY TIP:

**BE SAFE NEAR TRAINS AND TRACKS**

Each year we read the "back to school" warnings; watch for children in cross walks, look out for school busses, slow down in school zones, etc. All of which is good advice.

Jeff Plale, Commissioner of Railroad reminds the public of one more very important safety tip: **PLEASE** be aware of railroad crossings and **NEVER** play on or near railroad tracks!

"Each year there are senseless deaths involving trains in Wisconsin," Plale said, adding... "almost all of these are preventable if people simply keep in mind a few simple concepts:

- Trains cannot stop on a dime. It takes a train a long time to come to a complete stop.
- Trains do not have steering wheels. They cannot swerve to avoid a collision.
- It is illegal to drive or walk around gates when they are in the down position.
- **NEVER** try to beat a train at a crossing.
- It is illegal trespass to walk on railroad tracks. Not only could you face a hefty ticket, but that shortcut could cost you your life.

"As the new school year starts, please remember that there are more trains on Wisconsin's railways than there have been in decades. When you approach a railroad track, always assume that a train could be coming.

"Have a great year and, of course, be safe!" Plale concluded.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RAILROAD SAFETY OR WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST A SAFETY PRESENTATION AT YOUR SCHOOL, PLEASE VISIT THE **OPERATION LIFESAVER** WEBSITE AT [WWW.OLI.ORG](http://WWW.OLI.ORG).

ANOTHER VALUABLE WEBSITE IS [WWW.SSETRACKSTHINKTRAIN.ORG](http://WWW.SSETRACKSTHINKTRAIN.ORG)