



SAFETY/SENSE

The Monthly Newsletter of Delaware **Safety** Council

September 2023 Volume 2 No. 9



Rail Safety Edition



**OPERATION
LIFESAVER®**

Delaware

**TRAINS ARE
FASTER AND QUIETER
THAN YOU THINK.**



OLI.ORG

#RAILSAFETY

Letter From Executive Director — Stacey Inglis

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Dear Members and Friends,

Our September issue is a special issue for our *SafetySense* newsletter. The month of September hosts National Rail Safety Week and is the ideal time to announce that as Operation Lifesaver Delaware, we are in full swing promoting rail safety throughout the state.

We incorporated three Rail Safety sessions into our professional driver's safety courses held on the UD Campus for the Transportation Service Department of the University of Delaware. Crystal Blasius, AMTRAK Safety Investigator joined Kerry Bittenbender our DSC Defensive Driving and Flagger/Forklift instructor to deliver the combined safety messages.

In late July, I attended the Operation Lifesaver State Coordinator training held in Washington, D.C. The two-day event was a very thorough boot camp that included guests from national rail organizations headquartered in D.C.

Delaware has a rich railroad history dating back to 1832. Delaware Safety Council's own history dates to 1919, making the two excellent and organic safety partners.

Stacey

Executive Director/CEO
Delaware Safety Council



Member of:





DELAWARE'S FIRST RAILROAD

Delaware railroads feature one of the nation's first railroads. Yet today it having nearly the fewest rail miles of any state, its rails remain critically important to the Northeast. Delaware railroads date back to 1832 when the New Castle & Frenchtown Railroad opened that year as a better transportation alternative between the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware River. The railroad had been chartered February 7, 1829 and operated a virtually straight main line that stretched some sixteen miles between New Castle, Delaware and Frenchtown, Maryland.

The Delaware Railroad Company was in operation from 1836 to 1852 and headquartered in Smyrna-Station, Delaware. In 1860, the town's name was changed to Clayton in honor of

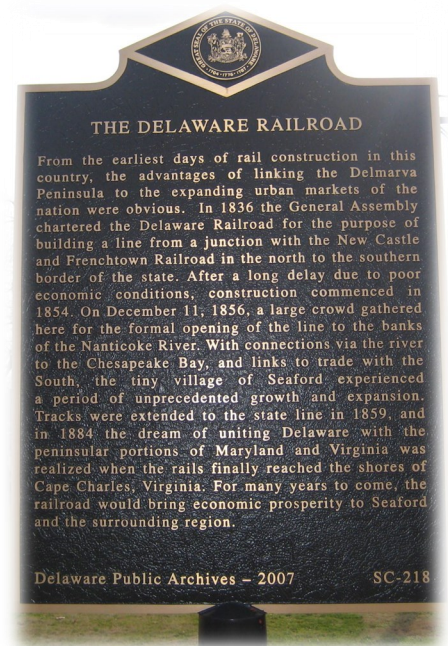
John M. Clayton, a former United States Secretary of State from Delaware and strong advocate for the railroad.

The town of Clayton and its shops served as a regional hub for the Delaware Railroad, the Maryland & Delaware Railroad, the Spur Line to Smyrna, and the Smyrna and Delaware Bay Railroad. Additional lines extended both east to the Delaware Bay at Bombay Hook and southwest through the Maryland towns of Goldsboro, Greensboro, Ridgely, Queen Anne, and Easton. From 1885 through 1920, Clayton was Division Headquarters for the PW&B.

Construction of a north-south line was planned to connect the agricultural communities of Kent and Sussex Counties with markets in Wilmington, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. The first section was opened with an inaugural eight-car train nor from

Middletown on September 1, 1855, carrying the president of the railroad and the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad's chief engineer, and railroad contractors.

The rail line began in Porter and was extended south through Dover, Seaford and finally reached Delmar on the border of Maryland in 1859.



(Marker Number SC-218.)



Sadie on Safety

Sadie Walsh is a sophomore marketing major at University of Scranton. She graduated Archmere Academy in Wilmington, Delaware.

Campus Safety. From a Gen Z Perspective

by Sadie Walsh, Marketing Delaware Safety Council

Heading off to college is an exciting adventure filled with new experiences, friends, and opportunities for personal growth. While embracing this journey, it's important to prioritize your safety on campus. College campus safety is a shared responsibility that involves students, faculty, staff, and the school itself.

Remember, college should be a time of growth, learning, and enjoyment. By prioritizing your safety and staying informed, you can make the most of your college experience while also feeling secure. If you have any concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to campus security or appropriate resources. Stay safe and make the most of your college years!





BE SAFE!

Stay Connected:

Ensure your phone is charged and programmed with emergency contacts. I found that having Life360 with my close friends made me feel at ease that in case of an emergency they can reach me. Many campuses also have safety apps that provide instant access to emergency services and notifications.

Emergency Plans:

Familiarize yourself with emergency protocols and evacuation routes. Knowing where to go and what to do in case of an emergency is crucial for your safety.

Responsible Partying:

If you choose to attend parties or social events, do so responsibly. Always watch your drink, stay with friends, and know your limits. If you feel uncomfortable or unsafe, leave the situation. Arrange for a designated driver or use public transportation when going out.

Safe Transportation:

If you use transportation services provided by the college, make sure they are official and recognized. When walking or using rideshare services, such as Uber, verify the driver's identity and share your trip details with a friend. I always make sure to check the driver's license plate and ask the name of who they are picking up before entering the vehicle.

Mental Health and Well-being:

Your emotional well-being is just as important as your physical safety. College can become overwhelming and stressful due to academics or simply homesickness. Take advantage of your schools counseling and mental health services; don't hesitate to seek help.

Here are some essential tips that I learned at college this past year to ensure your time on campus is not only enjoyable but safe.

Be Aware of Your Surroundings:

One of the simplest yet most effective ways to stay safe is to stay aware. Always be conscious of your surroundings, whether you're walking to class, studying in the library, or socializing with friends. Avoid distractions such as headphones that might prevent you from noticing potential hazards.

Utilize Campus Security Services:

Many colleges offer security services, such as campus police or security officers. Familiarize yourself with their contact information and locations. If you ever feel unsafe or encounter suspicious activity, don't hesitate to reach out to them. In addition, most college campuses have blue light boxes that can quickly alert authorities and campus police if there is an emergency.

Buddy System: It is essential to travel with a friend or in a group, especially at night. This tactic not only enhances your safety but also promotes a sense of community on campus. Never leave anyone behind!



History of National Farm Safety Week

The 2019 data for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that the agricultural sector is still the most dangerous in America with 573 fatalities, or an equivalent of 23.1 deaths per 100,000 workers. Fall harvest time can be one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for the agriculture industry. For this reason, the third week of September has been recognized as National Farm Safety and Health Week.

This annual promotion initiated by the National Safety Council has been proclaimed as such by each sitting U.S. President since Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944. National Farm Safety and Health Week is led by the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS), the agricultural partner of the National Safety Council.

According to the 1946-47 Delaware Safety Council Annual Report, the Delaware Safety Council has had Farm Safety Programs dating back to the early 1940's. Delaware Safety Council historically partnered with the University of Delaware's Agricultural Extension Service to carry out farm safety programs statewide.

Daily Topics of Focus

Monday, September 18, 2023 - *Equipment and Rural Roadway Safety*

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 - *Health and Wellness*

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 - *Priority Populations*

Thursday, September 21, 2023 - *Confined Spaces*

Friday, September 22, 2023 - *Brain Health*



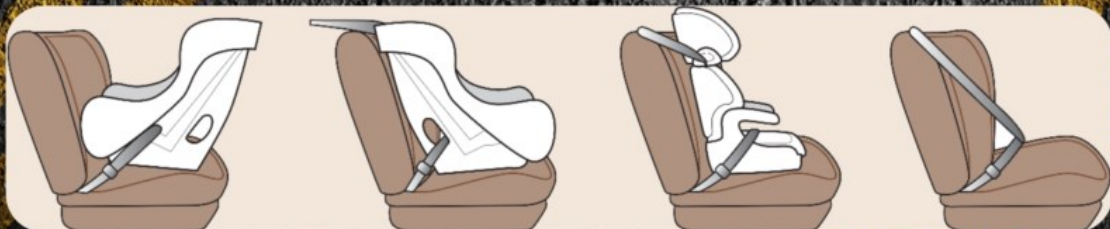
Child Passenger Safety Week is September 17-23, 2023

National Seat Check Saturday is Saturday, September 23, 2023.

Every day across Delaware, parents and caregivers drive young children around town, to and from school, daycare, and the store in car seats and boosters. Yet nearly half of all car seats are installed incorrectly, which means your child may not be traveling as safely as possible.

Every time your family gets on the road, make sure everyone in the car is properly buckled, including the tiniest passengers. Help us spread the message during *Child Passenger Safety Week* that correct car seat and booster seat use are the key to keeping children as safe as possible. Let's work together to keep Delaware's kids safe. [CLICK HERE](#) for a seat check!

Car Seat Safety Comes in Many Shapes and Sizes





Special Rail Safety Issue

Delaware Safety Council's September 2023 SafetySense

RAIL OLI.ORG
SAFETY
WEEK ✖

Together, we can #STOPTrackTragedies



YOU CAN STOP TRACK TRAGEDIES.

Each year, track trespassing results in more than 1,000 trespass incidents, including more than 500 deaths and approximately 500 injuries. People aged 16-40 are most likely to be involved in these preventable rail trespassing incidents.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the number of pedestrians dying on America's roads is also on the rise. The number of people risking their lives by trespassing on

or near railroad tracks has also been rising.

Distractions can be a major factor in pedestrian incidents near the tracks. It's essential to pay attention at railroad crossings.

Trains are quieter and move faster than you think. Take off your headphones and stay off cell phones to stay safe.

According to the FRA, trespassing incidents involving young people double during spring and summer

Safety Tips:

- Always expect a train. Trains are quieter and faster than you think, can run on any track, at any time, from either direction and do not run on schedules.
- Walking on or beside railroad tracks is illegal.
- The only safe place to cross tracks is at designated public crossings with a crossbuck, flashing red lights or a gate. Crossing anywhere else is illegal.
- Crossing tracks on a bike, with a stroller, in a wheelchair, or on other narrow wheels requires caution and extra attention. Plan ahead when choosing a route. When possible, walk, don't ride across the tracks. Cyclists, walk your bike across train tracks at a 90 degree angle. If in a wheelchair, consider getting assistance or taking an alternate route.
- Never pass flashing lights or go around lowered gates. Always wait until lights have stopped flashing and gates are completely raised.
- Wait to cross until you can see clearly in both directions. Multiple tracks may mean multiple trains.
- Stay off railroad bridges and trestles. Stay out of railroad tunnels. There is ONLY ROOM for the train.

RAIL SAFETY WEEK

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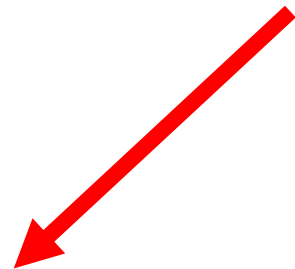
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TRACKS

FIND THE
BLUE AND
WHITE SIGN.

REPORT PROBLEM
OR EMERGENCY
1-800-XXX-XXXX
X-ING 842631B
CSX XXXXX

Do you know what to
do if stuck or stalled on
railroad tracks?

Find the blue and
white emergency sign
to save your life.



[Watch Video Clip](#)

SEE TRACKS? THINK TRAIN!

**TRAINS CAN'T STOP QUICKLY
OR SWERVE.**

It can take a train over a mile — or 18 football fields — to stop. So make safe choices.

- ◇ Recognize and obey railroad signs, lights and signals
- ◇ Always expect a train. Trains can start moving at any time.
- ◇ Always look both ways. Multiple tracks may mean multiple trains.
- ◇ Listen for whistles, horns and bells. Know that not all trains sound their horns.
- ◇ There is only room for trains on the tracks. Trains overhang the tracks.
- ◇ Stay off railroad equipment, train tracks, railroad bridges and out of railroad tunnels — it's dangerous and illegal.
- ◇ Cross only at designated crossings. Walk things like bikes and scooters over the tracks when it is safe to cross.

RAIL 011.ORG
SAFETY
WEEK ✖

**SEE TRACKS?
(ALWAYS)
THINK TRAIN!**

RAIL SAFETY WEEK

011.ORG



**KNOW HOW TO
RESPOND SAFELY.**

EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ARE A CRITICAL RAIL SAFETY PARTNER.

First Responders are not immune to incidents involving trains. Since 1877, more than 200 officers have died as a result of a collision with a train.

Train tracks are considered live, active tracks until there is confirmation from the railroad company that train traffic has been stopped. It's imperative for emergency responders and dispatchers to be aware that each crossing has a Blue and White ENS sign with a specific 800 number and crossing identification number.

Railroad companies need to be notified immediately regarding anything on or near railroad tracks. On scene responders should be prepared to give their dispatch the 800 number and crossing identification number in emergencies.



Rail Signs and Signals

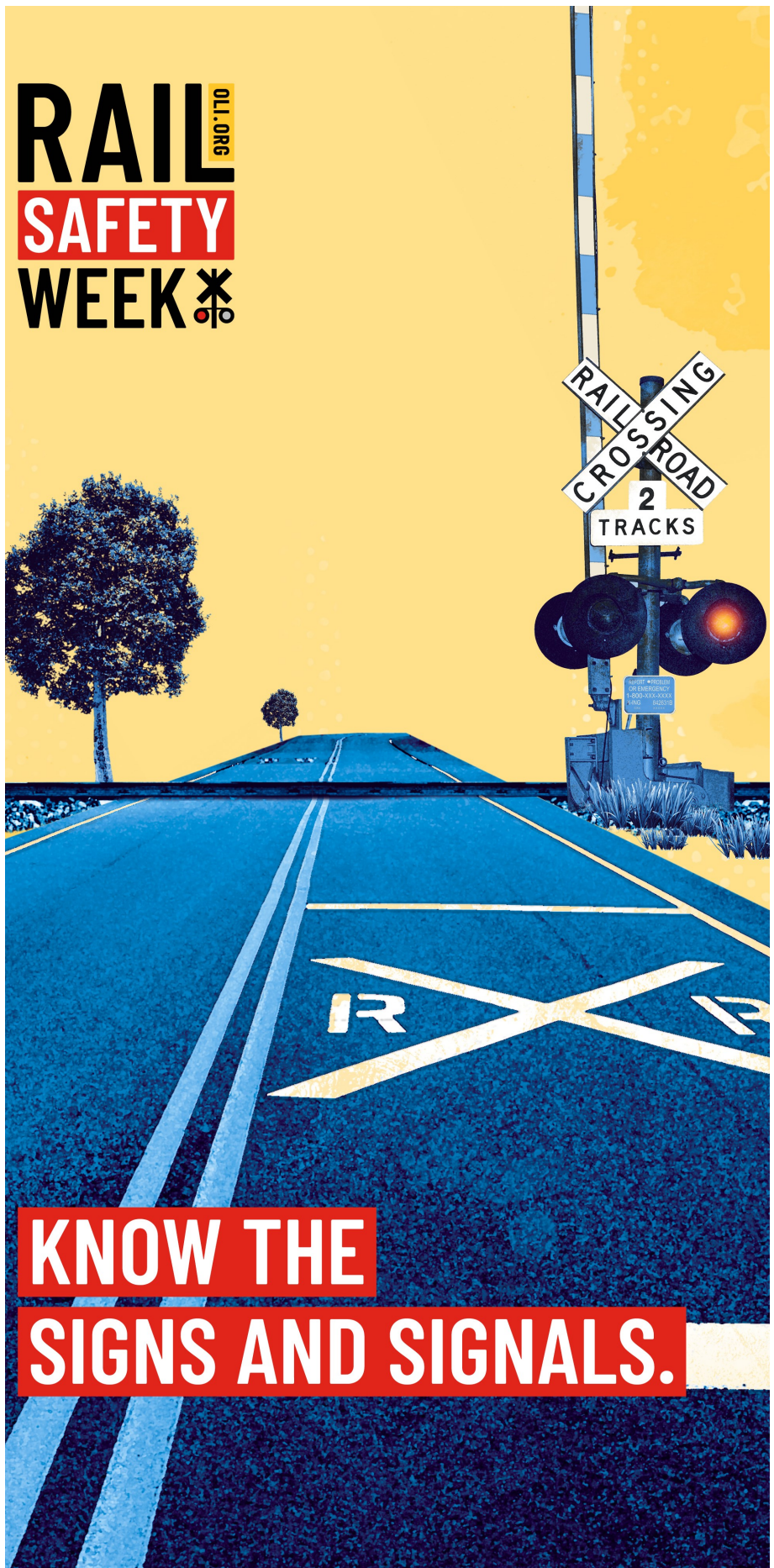
Get to know these railroad signs and signals to stay safe when driving or walking near railroad crossings. You'll find both passive and active signs and traffic control devices along roads that cross railroad tracks before and at highway-rail grade crossings. Their purpose is to regulate, warn or guide traffic.

They alert drivers to the presence of railroad tracks and to the possibility of an approaching train. These signs and devices also provide a safety message and remind the driver of the laws regarding highway-rail grade crossings. What follows is a list of some of the various signs and devices that you will see in connection with highway-rail grade crossings.

Passive Signs: Signs that alert motorists that they are approaching a highway-rail grade crossing.

Active Signs: Electronic devices that warn the motorist of the approach, or presence, of rail traffic at grade crossings

[Click Here](#) for sign specifics



REQUEST A PRESENTATION

Do you have a group that would benefit from a **free presentation on highway-rail grade crossing safety and rail trespass prevention?**

No problem. Operation Lifesaver's network of authorized volunteers offer free rail safety programs in school classrooms, to driver ed students, community service and civic groups, professional bus, truck and emergency first responder drivers and others.

Our trained volunteers are located throughout the country.



Request a presentation with the form [CLICK HERE](#)

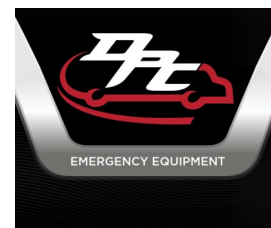


Source: GAO. | www.gao.gov

PASSENGER AND TRANSIT RAIL SAFETY

Operation Lifesaver's rail safety education materials - available in English and Spanish - promote safe practices for transit riders and communities with operating or planned rail transit systems - light rail, streetcar service, subway and commuter rail.

MEMBER Spotlight. Some Recent, Some Returning.



To become a Member Click [HERE!](#)