



ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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Commission to Hold Railroad Safety Press Conference

(Phoenix) The Arizona Corporation Commission is joining with Arizona Operation Lifesaver, Union Pacific, to raise awareness to dangers on railway crossings and property.

So far this year, there have been four pedestrians hit on railroad tracks in Arizona, three of them died. Last year, according to the Federal Railroad Administration, there were 11 deaths in Arizona from pedestrians trespassing on the railroad tracks. Arizona ranked number 11 in the nation in trespass casualties in 2016.

“Trains do not follow set schedules,” said Corporation Commission Safety Division Director John Mazza. “Anytime is train time. It can take a mile or more for the engineer to stop a train, so once they see you it would likely be too late for them to stop in time.”

The Arizona Corporation Commission regulates railroads under its Safety Division. Investigators inspect crossings, railroad equipment, and cars all over the state.

The Arizona Corporation Commission and Arizona Operation Lifesaver will hold a press conference Monday April 24th at 11:00 a.m. at 7th Street and Lincoln. The Safety Division Director, the Commission Safety Supervisor who used to be an engineer, will be available along with Arizona Operation Lifesaver and Union Pacific Railroad representatives.

Safety tips:

- Only cross tracks at the designated crossing where there are lights, gates, or a cross buck;
- Railroad tracks, trestles, and yards are private property and trespassers could be arrested and fined;
- Do not walk on, hunt, fish or bungee jump, cycle, or operate ATVS on trestles. There is only enough room for the train to pass;
- Do not walk around or behind lowered gates at a crossing;
- Do not cross tracks when red lights are flashing.

What: Press Conference Re: Railroad Safety

When: Monday April 24th at 11:00 a.m.

Where: 7th Street and Lincoln at crossing behind Chase field.

Established by Article 15 of the state's constitution, the Arizona Corporation Commission is responsible for the regulation of public utilities, overseeing the incorporation or registration of companies wishing to do business in Arizona. Additionally, the Corporation Commission registers and oversees securities offerings and dealers, and

enforces railroad and pipeline safety. The five commissioners that make up the Commission are elected by the people of Arizona for a four-year term, with the option of serving for two consecutive terms. To learn more about the Arizona Corporation Commission and the Commissioners, please check out <http://www.azcc.gov/Divisions/Administration/about.asp>