



May 3, 2013

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GOVERNOR SCOTT DECLARES MAY 5 – 11 TRAIN SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

TALLAHASSEE - Governor Rick Scott has declared May 5 - 11 as Train Safety Awareness Week (TSAW). Florida Operation Lifesaver and the Coalition of Community Traffic Safety Teams have joined forces to raise the public's awareness about the dangers of disregarding highway-rail crossings laws.

Director of Community Affairs and Safety at CSX Terry Ludban said, "CSX Transportation is proud to partner with Florida Operation Lifesaver for Train Safety Awareness Week. Enforcing grade crossing laws, as well as trespass prevention is important to all communities. We urge all drivers to obey the laws at grade crossings, and remember that railroad property is private property and can be dangerous if used as a shortcut. Remember to always "PLAY IT SAFE" around tracks and trains!"

This year TSAW's dates will correspond with that of the 4th annual International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD, www.ilcad.org), on May 7, 2013. Last year over 40 countries around the world participated in spreading the rail safety message during this day.

FDOT continues to seek ways to expand our efforts to encourage citizens to make safe decisions around tracks and trains. The team has scheduled numerous safety blitzes in Florida involving both law enforcement agencies and Florida Operation Lifesaver volunteers.

State Coordinator for Florida Operation Lifesaver Annette Lapkowski, P.E. said, "We are constantly striving to improve the highway-rail grade crossings in Florida through education, engineering and enforcement. Law enforcement officers are critical when highway-rail intersection collisions do occur. Our partnership with them aids us in strengthening and improving public safety. We encourage everyone to take warning devices seriously and remember to *Look, Listen and Live.*"

Florida also is taking a proactive lead in the elimination of trespassing.

Operation Lifesaver is a non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating collisions, deaths and injuries at highway-rail grade intersections and on railroad rights of way through public education, engineering and enforcement. Each year Operation Lifesaver's 3,000 presenters teach millions of drivers and pedestrians how to make safe decisions around tracks and trains. To learn more about Operation Lifesaver, please visit us online at www.oli.org.

www.dot.state.fl.us

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