



# **CPUC Public Agenda 3296**

**Thursday, June 21, 2012, 9:00 a.m.**  
**San Francisco, CA**



**Commissioners:**  
**Michael R. Peevey**  
**Timothy Alan Simon**  
**Michel Peter Florio**  
**Catherine J.K. Sandoval**  
**Mark J. Ferron**

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# CPSD Safety Report: Operation Lifesaver



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California Public Utilities Commission

June 21, 2012



Operation Lifesaver Presents

# In the Interest of Safety



# California Operation Lifesaver, Inc.

- **CA Operation Lifesaver, Inc., (OLI) is part of a National Non-Profit Educational Organization**
- **OLI is the primary effort to implement the third “E” of crossing safety, Engineering, Enforcement, and Education.**
- **OLI, through education, seeks to reduce collisions, injuries, and fatalities at:**
  - **highway-rail grade crossings and**
  - **on the railroad rights-of-way**



Highway-rail grade crossing collisions and pedestrian trespass on tracks together account for over 95% of all railroad fatalities nationally.



# 2011 CA Grade Crossing Incidents

- **There were 113 highway crossing incidents in California - an 11% decrease from 2010**
- **27 fatalities were recorded at highway-rail grade crossings**
- **113 non-fatal injuries resulted from train-car collisions**

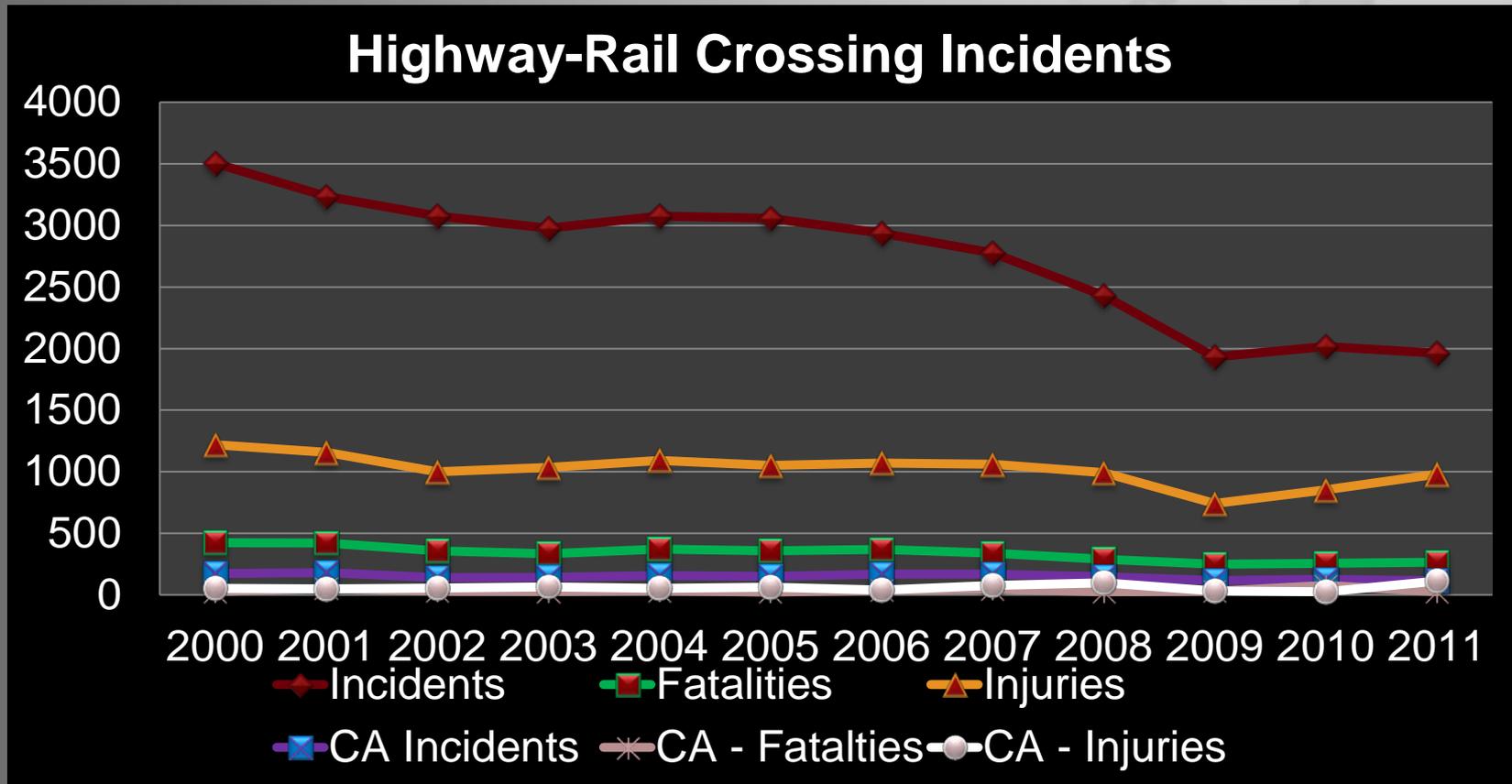
# CRITICAL RAIL SAFETY FACTS

- **It takes the average freight train more than a mile to stop.**
- **The view from the tracks makes it very difficult to judge the speed of an oncoming train.**
- **Most incidents happen with trains traveling slower than 30 mph.**
- **The weight ratio between your car and a train is 4000 to 1. That's equal to the difference between a car and a can of soda.**

# 2011 CA Rail Trespassing Incidents

- **103 Trespassing Incidents in 2011.**
- **61 were fatal (5.1% increase from 2010).**
- **42 resulted in injury (18.9% decrease from 2010).**
- **In addition, California data shows 67 Suicides (31% increase from 2010).**

# National Trend – Railroad Incidents



# OLI Safety Tips for Drivers

**Trains and cars don't mix.** Never race a train to the crossing — even if you tie, you lose.

**The train you see is closer and faster moving** than you think. If you see a train approaching, wait for it to go by before you proceed across the tracks.

**Be aware that trains cannot stop quickly.** Even if the locomotive engineer sees you, a freight train moving at 55 miles per hour can take a mile or more to stop once the emergency brakes are applied. That's 18 football fields!

**Never drive around lowered gates** — it's illegal and deadly. If you suspect a signal is malfunctioning, call the 1-800 number posted on or near the crossing signal or your local law enforcement agency.

**Do not get trapped on the tracks;** proceed through a highway-rail grade crossing only if you are sure you can completely clear the crossing without stopping. Remember, the train is three feet wider than the tracks on both sides.

**If your vehicle ever stalls on a track** with a train coming, get out immediately and move quickly away from the tracks in the direction from which the train is coming. If you run in the same direction the train is traveling, when the train hits your car you could be injured by flying debris. Call your local law enforcement agency for assistance.

**At a multiple track crossing** waiting for a train to pass, watch out for a second train on the other tracks, approaching from either direction.

**When you need to cross train tracks,** go to a designated crossing, look both ways, and cross the tracks quickly, without stopping. Remember it isn't safe to stop closer than 15 feet from a rail.

**ALWAYS EXPECT A TRAIN!** Freight trains do not follow set schedules.

# OLI Safety Tips for Pedestrians

**The only safe place** to cross is at a designated public crossing with either a cross-buck, flashing red lights or a gate. If you cross at any other place, you are trespassing and can be ticketed or fined. Cross tracks **ONLY** at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings.

**Railroad tracks, trestles, yards** and equipment are private property and trespassers are subject to arrest and fine. If you are in a rail yard uninvited by a railroad official you are trespassing and subject to criminal prosecution; you could be injured or killed in a busy rail yard.

**It can take a mile or more to stop** a train, so a locomotive engineer who suddenly sees someone on the tracks will likely be unable to stop in time. Railroad property is private property. For your safety, it is illegal to be there unless you are at a designated public crossing.

**Trains overhang the tracks** by at least three feet in both directions; loose straps hanging from rail cars may extend even further. If you are in the right-of-way next to the tracks, you can be hit by the train.

**Do not cross the tracks** immediately after a train passes. A second train might be blocked by the first. Trains can come from either direction. Wait until you can see clearly around the first train in both directions.

**Flashing red lights** indicate a train is approaching from either direction. You can be fined for failure to obey these signals. Never walk around or behind lowered gates at a crossing, and **DO NOT** cross the tracks until the lights have stopped flashing and it's safe to do so.

**Do not hunt, fish or bungee jump** from railroad trestles. There is only enough clearance on the tracks for a train to pass. Trestles are not meant to be sidewalks or pedestrian bridges! Never walk, run, cycle or operate all terrain vehicles (ATVs) on railroad tracks, rights-of-way or through tunnels.

**Do not attempt to hop aboard** railroad equipment at any time. A slip of the foot can cost you a limb or your life.

**Be aware trains do not follow set schedules.** Any Time is Train Time!

# CPUC Operation Lifesaver Volunteers

- **CPSD currently has 13 volunteers that participate in presentations, community special events, and Driver's Education classes:**

Michael Yuan  
Dave Stewart  
Felipe Ayala  
Linda Passini  
George Erickson  
Irma Ramos  
Jim Hernandez

Jim Esparza  
Greg Shivy  
John Healy  
Julie Watson  
Chuck Magee  
Carlos Tapia

# California Operation Lifesaver Inc

- In 2011 CA volunteers shared the OLI Safety Message with 136,757 people
- CA OLI recognizes and appreciates all volunteers.
- Annually, CA OLI gives a special recognition to the top volunteer in the state with the “Gary L. Bartlett Award of Excellence”

# Gary L. Bartlett Award of Excellence

- **The Gary L Bartlett Award of Excellence is the highest form of recognition for California Operation Lifesaver volunteers who have made an outstanding contribution to CAOL.**
- **Dave Stewart, CPSD-Rail Crossings Engineering Section Utilities Engineer received the top honors for 2011 earlier this month for his overall commitment to CAOL and his special attention to the North Coast areas that are once again seeing trains after a 10 year absence!**

# Our Message is for Everyone

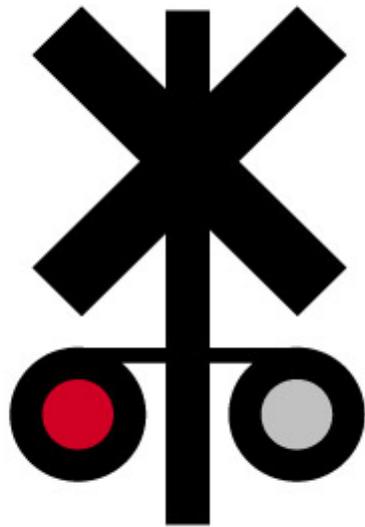


# OLI Presentation to School Children at the CPUC Halloween 2012



**LOOK,  
LISTEN &  
LIVE!®**

RAIL CROSSING  
CROSSROAD



**OPERATION  
LIFESAVER<sup>®</sup>**

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**Look, Listen & Live**

