



**For Immediate Release**

**INDIANA RAIL ROAD TO HOST “OFFICER ON A TRAIN,” PROMOTING CENTRAL INDIANA GRADE CROSSING SAFETY, AWARENESS**

Indianapolis, IN, Monday, June 1, 2015 – Railroad grade crossing and trespassing accidents are on the rise, and to foster awareness and education among central Indiana law enforcement officials, the Indiana Rail Road Company (INRD) and Indiana Operation Lifesaver will play host to “Officer on a Train” on Tuesday, June 2.

Law enforcement officers from Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, Johnson and Morgan counties, and Indiana University will participate in a train ride from Indianapolis to Bloomington and return.

A live video feed will deliver real-time views from the front of the locomotive to participants, so officers can monitor the behavior of motorists and pedestrians on Indiana Rail Road’s mainline. The live feed will also provide a point of discussion among law enforcement and railroad officials on how to better work together to promote grade crossing collision prevention and trespassing prevention.

According to the Federal Railroad Administration, 59 Indiana residents were killed or injured in preventable grade crossings accidents in 2014, which is 10 more than in 2013, and fourth highest among states, trailing only California, Illinois and Texas.

The day after “Officer on a Train,” June 3, is the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual International Level Crossing Awareness Day, created to send a message to public to act safely around grade (aka “level”) crossings. It’s a global problem requiring local, proactive engagement.

“All too often, there are news headlines of a tragic yet wholly preventable accident involving a grade crossing collision or a trespasser who was struck by a train,” said Eric Powell, INRD Manager, Intermodal and Economic Development. “Indiana Rail Road’s infrastructure is in the best condition in its history, but our trains cannot stop on a dime to avoid collisions with motor vehicles or pedestrians. Through coordination with law enforcement, we hope to raise awareness about these vulnerabilities, and to change public behavior around railroads. It’s all in the name of protecting the public and our employees.”

A total of 54 public road crossings exist on Indiana Rail Road in the 54 miles from Indianapolis to the IU campus. Police officers will also ride in the cab of the locomotive during “Officer on a Train,” and follow the train in motor vehicles to observe motorist behavior at grade crossings.

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The Indianapolis-based Indiana Rail Road Company is a privately-held, 500-mile railroad which hauls the equivalent of more than 800,000 truckloads of consumer, industrial and energy products each year.

INRD is active in the community, operating the popular Santa Train, serving as a major sponsor of “Jingle Rails” at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, the Indiana Historical Society’s Indiana Bicentennial Train, and providing education and public safety-focused community grants. For more information, visit the Indiana Rail Road online at [www.inrd.com](http://www.inrd.com) or on Twitter and Facebook.

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