For Immediate Release

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Kendall County Sheriff’s Office to Participate in Illinois Rail Safety Week

The State of Illinois has declared September 23rd to 30th as Illinois Safety Week in order to promote vehicle and pedestrian safety around railroad tracks and trains. Deputies will be increasing patrol around railroad tracks and crossings in order to promote safety for both motorists and pedestrians. In Illinois during 2017, there were 86 crossing collisions involving motor vehicles, which resulted in 24 injuries and 21 fatalities when people trespassed onto railroad property. During 2017, Illinois ranked 2nd in the nation in vehicle collision fatalities and 8th in the nation in trespasser fatalities.

Please remember, not only is it against the law to stop your vehicle on railroad tracks, it is also against the law to stop your vehicle anywhere within the highway-rail grade crossing. Highway-rail grade crossings are typically marked by white stop lines located on the pavement in advance of the crossing, and if not marked by white stop lines, the highway-rail grade crossing extends from protective gate arm to protective gate arm.

According to Illinois Operation Lifesaver, more than 84 percent of all collisions occur at crossings with active warning devices (flashing lights, gates, and ringing bells). For more information about Illinois Rail Safety Week, please visit: www.illinoisrailsafetyweek.org