

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

## California's "Operation Clear Track" Set for September 25 During Rail Safety Week

On Tuesday, September 25 during Rail Safety Week, September 23-29, Amtrak and more than 500 local, state, federal and railroad law enforcement departments will partner with California Operation Lifesaver, the nonprofit rail safety education organization, for "Operation Clear Track". The goal of the operation is to raise awareness and enforce railroad grade crossing and trespassing laws in 48 states across the U.S. "Operation Clear Track" will be the largest single law enforcement railroad safety operation ever attempted in the U.S.

During "Operation Clear Track," California law enforcement personnel will be stationed at targeted railroad grade crossing incident locations to hand out railroad safety cards to motorists and pedestrians, and issue warnings and citations to violators. The goal of Rail Safety Week is to reduce pedestrian and driver injuries and fatalities around railroad tracks through increased public awareness.

**What:** "Operation Clear Track" police enforcement/education event to be held in 48 states at railroad grade crossings that have a high number of vehicle and/or trespasser incidents.

**Where/When:** The Ventura Police Department will be at the following railroad grade crossings from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.: 1) Harbor Blvd and California Street 2) Harbor Blvd and Figueroa Street

**Why:** Federal statistics show that about every three hours in the United States, a person or vehicle is hit by a train. "Operation Clear Track" is an effort by California Operation Lifesaver, Amtrak and rail safety partner organizations to raise awareness of the need for caution near train tracks during Rail Safety Week, which is being observed in the U.S. and Canada September 23-29, 2018.

**More Info:** Visit Operation Lifesaver's national website for safety tips and statistics: <a href="www.oli.org">www.oli.org</a>; visit the <a href="mailto:Rail Safety Week landing page">Rail Safety Week landing page</a> for infographics, safety tips, and more; or contact <a href="mailto:Kimberly.Woods@amtrak.com">Kimberly.Woods@amtrak.com</a> or 202-906-3860 for more information on "Operation Clear Track."

