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[www.aar.org](http://www.aar.org)



**Message:**

For the [Association of American Railroads \(AAR\)](http://www.aar.org), the leading railroad policy, research and technology organization for North American's major freight railroads, safety is a top priority. America's privately-owned freight rail network continues to invest billions annually on capital improvements and maintenance. While recent years have been some of the safest on record for the U.S. rail sector, there are still far too many fatalities that occur in and around crossings – and the majority are preventable.

In my job as manager of hazardous materials compliance with the AAR, and in my previous experience in law enforcement, I have seen first-hand the tragic results when truck drivers and others fail to use caution when navigating railroad crossings. I am honored to serve as the AAR's representative on [Operation Lifesaver, Inc.'s](#) board of directors, which guides the non-profit organization in its mission to save lives and reduce injuries at highway rail crossings and on or around railroad property.

As the freight rail industry continues its work to make operations safer, it also supports critical initiatives like International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD), which focuses driver attention to the dangers of grade crossings and shares vital information about how to stay safe near tracks. The AAR is pleased to join the worldwide rail transportation community in observing the 11th annual ILCAD.