

## Driven To Distraction

### Contact Us:

INOL  
31 E. Georgia St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

P: 317.267.4011  
F: 317.267.4357  
W: www.inol.org



### Advisory Council:

The INOL Advisory Council held our first meeting on March 12, 2010 in Indianapolis. Members of the council include: Korey Henderson, Alan Stouder, Matt Lucas, Tammy Wagner, Ken Gilsdorf, Dennis Hays, Rocky Decker, and Doug Wylie. The council discussed several ideas and upcoming events for the 2010 year. The next Advisory Council meeting will be on May 19th from 11 AM until 2 PM at the Holiday Inn Express in downtown Indianapolis. A reminder email will be sent out to all members.

Even if you are a good driver, the stats can't be ignored: Multitasking behind the wheel is one of the deadliest things you can do. Sadly, more and more people are committing vehicular suicide.

Car crashes are the leading cause of accidental death among healthy young men and women. The number of these crashes caused by driver inattention has risen 21 percent in the past 5 years. Statistics show that up to 56 percent of fatal crashes have involved distraction.

Not only are people involved in fatal car/car collisions but the number of fatalities from car/train collisions is rising due to dis-

tracted driving as well. Drivers are 20 times more likely to crash into another car or a train if they are texting while



**39 Percent of 18-35 year olds admit to texting while behind the wheel.**

driving. One recent study found that the brain scans of people using cell phones while driving showed 50 per-

cent less activity than scans of people who were driving without distractions.

Here are some ways to get off the collision course:

- Do not constantly fiddle with the radio. Make sure you have pre-set stations and CDs loaded before you leave.
- Pre-set your GPS device before hitting the road or pull over to adjust it.
- Invest in a travel mug or a good leak proof seal for beverages.
- Turn your cell phone off or in the silent position so you are not tempted to answer it or text.

## 2009 FRA Statistics for Indiana

The 2009 statistics for grade crossing collisions and trespassing incidents have been compiled by the Federal Railroad Administration.

Last year, Indiana experienced 98 grade crossing collisions; 14 deaths from crossing collisions; and 36 injuries

from crossing collisions. Indiana also experienced 13 trespasser deaths and 13 trespasser injuries.

Grade crossing collisions were down 30 percent last year from 2008 and Indiana experienced the fewest crashes ever in our state.

There were fewer people on the roads because of the economic times and less rail traffic as well.

These numbers do not give an accurate picture of near misses or hits as well as all trespassing incidents that were reported to police.



**50%: Percentage that brain activity decreases when a driver is distracted!**

# Rail Safety Week 2010



Norfolk Southern volunteers conducting a crossing blitz

*“Accidents, and particularly street & highway accidents, do not happen— they are caused.”*

*-Ernest Greenwood*



2010 INOL Annual Dinner

**355:** This is the average of people per year killed at railroad crossings in the U.S. That is one person a day.

Indiana Operation Lifesaver along with Governor Daniels proclaimed the week of August 22-28 Rail Safety Week for 2010.

Rail Safety Week will include many of the same things that took place last year, with a few extras added in for this year. Rail Safety Week will have enforcement blitzes, crossing blitzes with OL volunteers, a poster and essay contest for grades K-

12, college students throughout Indiana handing out Key Safety Tips on campuses, press releases and radio shows, a commemorative poster ( a new design that’s different from last year’s), Public Service Announcements, and extra presentations given by our OL presenters throughout Indiana.

This will be Indiana’s second Rail Safety Week and we do this to educate the public

on rail safety and trespassing on railroad property.

Indiana is ranked 4th nationally for railroad crossing collisions and it is important for us to educate Hoosiers and keep them safe! If you have any ideas you would like to share regarding Rail Safety Week, please email [jfeder@inol.org](mailto:jfeder@inol.org)



## Poster & Essay Contest

Indiana Operation Lifesaver is sponsoring a poster contest open to all Indiana K-5th graders. The winner of the poster contest will receive a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond, with a \$50 bond for 2nd place, and \$25 bond for 3rd. The poster must cover the topic of grade crossing safety and be hand drawn on a 8.5 X 14 inch piece of pa-

per using colored pencil or marker.

The essay contest is open to all Indiana 6th-12th graders. The winner of the contest will receive a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond. The essay must cover the topic of grade crossing safety or trespassing dangers and be typed or handwritten

neatly. It should be on standard 8.5 X 11 inch paper and be a minimum of one page with a two page maximum. The deadline is August 20th and winners will be announced during Rail Safety Week. Details can be found at [www.inol.org](http://www.inol.org).

## Southern Indiana RSER

Indiana Operation Lifesaver will be conducting a Rail Safety For Emergency Responders class (RSER) in June 2010. An official date has not been set yet, but the first responders in Clark, Floyd, Harrison and Scott counties will be participating in the training. A location in Southern Indiana is

being determined for the class in hopes that participants can get hands on experience and have a field day as well.

RSER helps first responders and firefighters know what to do at a grade crossing collision or derailment. Many first responders forget that trains cannot yield to a fire engine or

ambulance or that hosing down a locomotive is something that shouldn't be done.

If you or someone you know is interested in this class please contact Jessica Feder at [jfeder@inol.org](mailto:jfeder@inol.org). We hope to have a large turnout for the class and for the area.

Symposium Registration is now available at [www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org)