



Press Release

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Alameda CTC Joins National Rail Safety Week, September 22–28

Raising awareness about the dangers of trespassing onto railroad rights-of-way

ALAMEDA COUNTY, Calif. – The Alameda County Transportation Commission’s Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) program announces that it will be joining National Rail Safety Week for the first time to address the high incidence of fatalities and injuries due to rail trespassing in Alameda County. Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI), the national rail safety education nonprofit, partners with Operation Lifesaver Canada to mark the observance of Rail Safety Week (RSW) in North America during the last week of September each year. The Alameda CTC joins the U.S. Department of Transportation and other partner organizations to support this nationally recognized effort to raise awareness and highlight the importance of rail safety education.

“Alameda CTC is proud to partner with Operation Lifesaver, Inc. to play a critical and vocal role in providing rail safety education throughout Alameda County,” said Alameda CTC Chair and Alameda County District 2 Supervisor Richard Valle. “We know that safety near railroad tracks and trains continues to be an issue in Alameda County and Rail Safety Week is an important opportunity to share knowledge and raise awareness about safe behaviors.”



Always look and listen for trains
Cross only at designated railroad crossings
Take your time – never race the train to the crossing or travel along the tracks

Between 2011 and 2017, 47 trespassing-related collisions occurred in Alameda County, including 33 fatalities. In January, Alameda CTC launched its rail safety education program, [ACT Safely](#), which provides in-class training about rail safety to students in K-12 public schools enrolled in the Safe Routes to Schools program. The ACT Safely program aims to reduce trespassing incidents by teaching safe behaviors when walking or bicycling near railroads. In addition to presentations, the program offers online resources that include videos, fact sheets, posters and flyers and can provide

safety information at community events. The SR2S program partnered with California Operation Lifesaver to develop the ACT Safely program and curriculum for Alameda County.

“By the end of September, we will have offered over 25 in-class presentations and attended a variety of community events to spread information on how to ACT Safely,” continued Chair Valle. “We look forward to expanding the program in the future so all our students in Alameda County receive important safety education and awareness about railroad tracks and trains.”

For Rail Safety Week, schools that participate in the SR2S program received resources, including messaging, posters and stickers to help them educate and encourage their students to be safe pedestrians and bicyclists around train tracks. A social media campaign on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) will also help spread the word to families and students about trespassing and rail safety. The funding for these efforts and the ACT Safely program is provided through a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety.

Every year, over 2,000 people in North America are killed or seriously injured due to unsafe behavior around trains and tracks. With the unifying theme of #StopTrackTragedies, Rail Safety Weeks reinforces Operation Lifesaver’s mission to save lives. Each day of the week focuses on a different safety theme to reinforce key safety messages for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers. A schedule of events is shared on the Rail Safety Week information page (oli.org/about-us/news/event-materials) each year. To learn more about rail safety in Alameda County, visit alamedacountysr2s.org/rail-safety.



About the Alameda County Transportation Commission

The Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) is governed by a 22-member Board comprised of elected officials representing the County Board of Supervisors, all 14 cities in Alameda County, and two major transit operators. Alameda CTC coordinates countywide transportation planning and delivers essential, voter-supported transportation improvements in every city throughout Alameda County. Funding sources for Alameda CTC’s expenditure plans include the voter approved transportation sales tax Measures B and BB, which were approved by 81.5 percent of county voters in 2000, and more than 70 percent of voters in 2014, respectively. Visit www.AlamedaCTC.org to learn more, and follow Alameda CTC on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program

Since 2006, the Alameda CTC has prioritized safe walking and biking to schools through its Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Program. Serving over 200 schools annually, the comprehensive program provides free education, training, and support to schools that want to teach safe pedestrian and bicyclist behaviors, as well as encourage carpooling and transit use. The program now offers rail safety awareness and education classes for students and resources for families and adults. We partnered with California Operation Lifesaver (OLI) — the standard for rail safety education — to develop our program and curriculum for Alameda County. Visit alamedacountysr2s.org/rail-safety to learn more.