Symposium on Pedestrian-Rail Safety: Framing the Issue

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Basis of the Symposium

How do we convince people to recognize the fatal consequences of being distracted around railroads?
After a downward trend, rail fatalities from all causes grew 6.3% in the first quarter of 2010, totaling 153 deaths.
THE DISTRACTION FACTOR

Electronic Devices

Pressures of daily life
THE “WITCHING HOUR”

5:00 – 5:20 P.M.

200% risk of accident
COMMUTERS

The same old routine
False sense of security
TRAINS

Expect a train at any time on any track from either direction
THE FATAL MISTAKE

“That is my train, and it is going to stop.”

Expresses – Amtrak – Freights
CONSIDERATIONS

Multiple tracks
Bi-directional signaling
Second – third train coming
Left-Right hand running
A BAD ASSUMPTION

Railroad rights-of-way are private, not public property
THE CONSISTENT MESSAGE

STOP

LOOK

LISTEN
BASIC ELEMENTS

Education and Communication
Engineering and Design
Enforcement
WHAT IS NEEDED?

- New messages
- New media
- New psychology
- Peer education
- Peer pressure
HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Research
Revised programs
Revised laws
Buy-in from all ages
YOUR MISSION TODAY

New ideas
Plan to move forward
Areas of research
Creative communications
Enforcement concepts
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Education and Communications
Engineering and Design
Enforcement