



CN Police Network Security and Intelligence Unit will effectively gather, analyze and make use of appropriate intelligence in order to align our priorities and address issues in a strategic manner



NETWORK SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE UNIT

OFFICER SAFETY AWARENESS BULLETIN

Rail Safety Practices for Law Enforcement

Network Security and Intelligence Unit *Officer Safety Awareness Bulletins* are issued as and when required to provide CNPS members and law enforcement partners with current status information on emerging issues.

Since the beginning of 2016, a number of police vehicles have been struck by freight trains across North America. This unusual spike in collisions has caused great concern within the railway industry.

Officers are reminded that trains cannot stop quickly, nor can they swerve to avoid a collision with vehicles parked on, or in close proximity to railway tracks. In fact, a freight train weighing 6,000 tons, traveling at 55 mph, can take more than one mile to stop, even with emergency brakes applied.

It's critical that police vehicles vs train collisions do not occur. Officers may often find themselves on railway property resulting from a pursuit, attending a train vs vehicle collision or searching for an individual. While on railway property, it's imperative that officers understand railway operations and train limitations for their personal safety.



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To assist in officer safety, Operation Lifesaver in conjunction with the rail industry, offers the following nine rail safety tips specifically for law enforcement personnel:

1. Notify Railway Companies

Before approaching railway tracks or entering onto railway property, make sure the railway company has been notified. **Make sure train traffic has been stopped.**

2. Stay clear of any railway tracks

Make sure patrol vehicles are parked far away from any railway track. The standard safe distance is at least five meters from the closest rail. Officers are reminded that trains can arrive at anytime and from either direction.

3. Location

Provide the location of the incident to the railway company. A railway emergency phone number is usually posted behind the crossbucks at a railway crossing or can be located on a nearby signal bungalow.

4. Be Visible

Before entering onto any railway property, put on high visibility apparel to maximize visibility.

5. Look

Before crossing any tracks, always look both ways. Trains cannot stop quickly.

6. Watch Your Step

Never run or walk on the rails or climb underneath or between railcars.

7. The Train crew

When engaging train crews, understand that they may be suffering from injuries, as well as emotional stress caused by the incident.

8. Engagement

Engage local railway companies in your jurisdiction to formulate effective response procedures. Make sure you are aware of your agency's protocol to handle railway incidents.

9. Communication is Key

Communicate your location and intentions and keep your dispatcher informed at all times. Notify the railway company when all police activity is completed and all personnel have cleared railway property. This way, railway operations can resume.

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Operation Lifesaver is an educational organization in North America dedicated to promoting safety at railway grade crossings and railway rights-of-way. Operation Lifesaver is the largest and most-influential rail safety organization in North America.

This NSI bulletin was produced in collaboration with CNPS Community Services Officer.

For further railway safety information, please contact Cst Richard Di Biase, CNPS Community Services Outreach at #905-760-3476 or richard.dibiase@cn.ca

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