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## Kansas Operation Lifesaver notes reduction in 2017 crossing collisions; but significant increase of pedestrian-train casualties from 2016 levels

### Preliminary Rail Crossing and Trespass Statistics, 2016 vs. 2017

Source: FRA Office of Safety Analysis

Kansas Crossing Statistics			Kansas Trespass Statistics				
	Collisions	Deaths	Injuries		All Casualties	Deaths	Injuries
2016	40	5	18	2016	4	4	0
2017	34	8	13	2017	17	9	8
<b>% Change</b>	-15%	60%	-28%	<b>% Change</b>	+325%	+125%	

Topeka, KS March 29, 2018 – Collisions at highway-rail grade crossings in Kansas fell by 15 percent in 2017 and rail trespass casualties (deaths plus injuries) rose significantly according to the nonprofit rail safety education organization Kansas Operation Lifesaver, [www.ksoli.org](http://www.ksoli.org). The group cited preliminary 2017 [Federal Railroad Administration](http://www.fra.dot.gov) (FRA) statistics.

“We are concerned with this significant increase in trespassing along railroads,” said Kansas Operation Lifesaver State Coordinator, Tara Mays. “We will continue our work giving people across Kansas important information on how to keep themselves, their friends and their families safe near tracks and trains to avoid these preventable tragedies,” said Mays.

Nationally, vehicle-train collisions at highway-rail grade crossings rose 3.1 percent in 2017, and the number of people killed in crossing incidents rose 7.4 percent; however, the number of people injured in crossing incidents declined 4.3 percent last year. Deaths in 2017 from train track trespassing climbed 22.3 percent, and trespass injuries increased 4.6 percent; total trespass-related casualties (deaths plus injuries) increased 13.3 percent from 2016 levels, Mays said.

Overall, Kansas crossing collisions were down 15 percent in 2017 from 2016, to 34; crossing fatalities rose 60 percent to 8; and crossing injuries fell 28 percent to 13, FRA statistics reveal. Trespass fatalities increased, 125 percent in 2017 to 9, and trespass injuries increased from 0 to 8 in 2017.

“This year, Kansas will participate in Rail Safety Week, September 23-29,” Mays continued. “We look forward to working with existing and new safety partners to raise awareness among Kansas residents of the need to always use caution near crossings and refrain from trespassing on the tracks.” she concluded.

### About Operation Lifesaver

*Operation Lifesaver is a nonprofit public safety education and awareness organization dedicated to reducing collisions, fatalities and injuries at highway-rail crossings and preventing trespassing on or near railroad tracks. A national network of trained volunteers gives free presentations on rail safety and a public awareness campaign, “See Tracks? Think Train!” provides the general public with tips and statistics to encourage safe behavior near the tracks. Learn more at [www.ksoli.org](http://www.ksoli.org), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or at <http://www.oli.org>.*