

Safety Notice for Professional and Amateur Photographers

In cooperation with Professional Photographers of America (PPA, www.ppa.com), Operation Lifesaver released a statement in May, 2012 to educate photographers and others about the importance of safety around tracks and trains. Six "must-know" tips were shared for professional photographers before considering a photo shoot near the tracks:

6 Must-Know Things about Photographing near Tracks and Trains

- 1) Trains can't stop quickly to avoid people or vehicles on the tracks.
- 2) An optical illusion makes it hard to determine a train's distance and speed.
- 3) The average train overhangs the tracks by at least three feet.
- 4) Railroad tracks, trestles, yards and rights-of-way are private property.
- 5) No tracks should ever be assumed to be abandoned or inactive.
- 6) People in your community mimic your behavior.



Kansas Statute 21-3761: Trespassing on railroad property explains that:

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- (1) Without consent of the owner or the owner's agent, **enter or remain on railroad property**, knowing that it is railroad property

And...

(E) As used in this section "**railroad property**" includes, but is not limited to, **any** train, locomotive, railroad car, caboose, rail-mounted work equipment, rolling stock, work equipment, safety device, switch, electronic signal...railroad track, rail, bridge, trestle, right-of-way or other property that is owned, leased, operated or possessed by a railroad company.

EVERY THREE HOURS, A PERSON OR VEHICLE IS HIT



BY A TRAIN



*Many photographers state in their promotional material that **preserving life's precious memories** is a passion they hold dear. I urge you not to let that passion be the very thing that leads to a memory being **all that remains.***

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The aforementioned webinar is available to PPA members online at

http://www.ppa.com/benefits/memberessential_archive.php (To become a PPA member, visit www.ppa.com.)