



Elburn Police Dept.

Operation Lifesaver Railroad Safety Education

(with a dash of enforcement)





Where is Elburn?

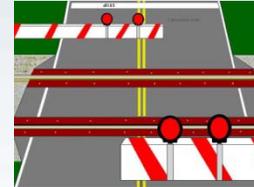
- On Union Pacific West Line
- Milepost 43.88
- In the center of Kane County
- 3.5 Sq Miles
- Population 4,721 (2006)





Why did the Village of Elburn apply for a PEERS Grant?

1. To reduce vehicle grade crossing violations by education and enforcement



2. To prepare for the new Metra Commuter Station



3. To help obtain “Whistle Free” status



Purpose of Enforcement



- **Traffic enforcement is used to correct a problem.**
- **Where is the problem?**
- **Why is there a problem?**
- **What can be done to efficiently address the problem?**
- **What are the expected results?**



Education

- Newspaper Articles
- Elementary School Field Trips
 - Health World Museum
 - Illinois Railway Museum
- Festivals
- National Night Out
 - Coloring Contest
- Commuter Coffee with the Elburn Police



Guidelines for Elburn Police Officer on Enforcement

- Failure to enforce or take action on traffic regulations (R/R Crossings in this case) is tacit approval for motorists to continue violating the law
- In regards to any type of enforcement or remedial actions, there is always more than one audience



Definitions

Enforcement - the act of enforcing; ensuring observance of or obedience to

Efficient

1. Acting directly to produce an effect:.
2. a. Acting or producing effectively with a minimum of waste, expense, or unnecessary effort.
b. Exhibiting a high ratio of output to input.



Types of Railroad Crossing Violations

- **Type 1** – Flashing signals activated, violator could have stopped and didn't, or accelerated
- **Type 2** – Flashing Signals activated and gates lowering, violator could have stopped and didn't, or accelerated
- **Type 3** – Drove around crossing gates
- **Type 4** – Gates rising, Signals flashing, crossed tracks



The Plan

- Observe the violations and take enforcement action
- Educate the motorist whenever possible and issue warning citation
- Hand out reminder items for sustained effect
- Complete the process as professionally as possible



What is this?



- A. Railroad Crossing
- B. Traffic backup
- C. Potential Violators
- D. An Audience
- E. All the above



The Efficient Enforcement Process

Audience #1

The traffic violator





What are Reminder Items

(the “Did I win Something?” items)

- **Brochure “Is it Myth or Reality”**
- **Travel Coffee Mugs (with Donuts/Power Rings)**
- **Frisbees**
- **Coloring books/crayons**
- **Keychains**
- **Pens/Pencils**
- **Suckers**
- **Litter bags**
- **License Plate Brackets**
- **Fans**



The Efficient Enforcement Process

Audience #2

The captive audience motorists observing the traffic stop.





The Efficient Enforcement Process

Audience #3

The friends, relatives and co-workers that the violator talks to.





The Efficient Enforcement Process

Audience #4

Those individuals that see the "reminder items" sitting on desks, tables, being played with etc.





The Results

During the first PEERS Grant, 440 traffic stops were made

- Type #1 Violation = 25 warnings, 4 citations
- Type #2 Violation = 19 warnings, 24 citations
- Type #3 Violation = 3 warnings, 2 citations
- Type #4 Violation = 352 warnings, 11 citations

- Total of 399 warnings, 41 citations
- 91% warnings, 9% citations



The Results

During the second PEERS Grant (on-going), 196 traffic stops were made

- Type #1 Violation = 0 warnings, 0 citations
- Type #2 Violation = 17 warnings, 13 citations
- Type #3 Violation = 0 warnings, 1 citation
- Type #4 Violation = 165 warnings, 1 citation

- Total of 182 warnings, 15 citations
- 93% warnings, 7% citations



The Measure of Success/Compliance

- The measure of success is the lack of accidents and the voluntary compliance of the motorists
- Enforcement details have been reduced due to the voluntary compliance
- Trustees routinely remark that when they do see a violation, they figure it must be an Out-of-Towner



The Bottom Line

To be successful, you need to positively, efficiently and effectively carry your message to as many audiences as possible. The residual benefits should pay for themselves many times over.





Questions?



Thank You!

Chief Jim Linane
Elburn Police Department