



For Immediate Release
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Join SMART in Promoting Rail Safety

The Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) district is asking the community to drop the distractions, and to be alert and aware near tracks and trains.

September is Rail Safety Month in California, and National Rail Safety Week is September 23-29, when railroads across the country reinforce the need to stay alert and encourage safe behavior near trains, tracks and at railroad crossings.

SMART is partnering with California Operation Lifesaver, a nonprofit organization dedicated to rail safety, and asking the community to help promote rail safety by sharing these important safety messages with at least 5 friends and family members:

- Never walk on the tracks—it's dangerous and illegal.
- Wait for the gate. Pay attention to signs and signals at railroad crossings. Wait for the bells and lights to stop, and for the gates to rise before crossing the tracks.
- Distractions are dangerous. Stay alert and aware near tracks, trains and at station platforms. Don't be distracted by cell phones, texting and headphones.
- Don't risk it. Never rush through railroad crossing gates to avoid waiting. Only drive through crossings when you have enough room to make it safely through to the other side, and never stop on the tracks.

SMART is also encouraging people to share those messages using social media, with the hashtags **#SaveLivesTell5** and **#SMARTsafety**.

SMART has been operating for just over a year, and has a comprehensive safety outreach program that includes working with local schools, businesses, and community groups. SMART has participated in more than 300 presentations and events, and has conducted rail safety presentations at Sonoma and Marin county schools reaching more than 36,000 students. SMART plans to continue its rail safety campaign throughout the holidays.

For rail safety information, visit SMART's rail safety website at www.BeTrackSMART.org.

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