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It's been nine months since the Burleson Police Department's traffic unit teamed up with Union Pacific Railroad for a railroad crossing enforcement detail. A 23-year-old Burleson man died at the Alsbury Boulevard crossing in May after he drove around a vehicle that was stopped at the track's crossing arms. His passenger was critically injured.

Burleson officers and railroad officials monitored railroad crossings Wednesday, July 28. In four hours, they made 11 traffic stops for disregarding a railroad crossing signal.

In October 2008, Burleson's traffic officers ticketed 17 drivers for disregarding a railroad crossing signal. In July 2008, 18 railroad crossing citations were written. In all three railroad crossing enforcement details, drivers were given a pamphlet explaining the enforcement and the law.

Prior to the May 2009 railroad crossing death, Burleson lost two teenagers in two separate railroad crossing accidents in the late 1980s.

The maximum speed for trains traveling through Burleson is 60 miles an hour. Burleson has six grade crossings. It usually takes a train a mile or more to come to a full stop.

When approaching a crossing, always be prepared to yield to an oncoming train. Trains can approach from either direction at any time. If the gates are down or the warning lights are flashing, the road is closed. Stop and wait until the gates go up and the warning lights stop flashing. Another train may be approaching from either direction on adjacent tracks.

Drivers must stop prior to the white stop bar painted on the pavement. Always be certain all tracks are clear before crossing. When you cross a railroad track, make sure you can clear all tracks by at least three feet on the other side.

For more information about railroad crossing violations, go to www.fra.dot.gov and www.oli.org.