

July 15, 2011

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Five citations, one written warning and one verbal warning were issued Wednesday during a railroad crossing enforcement detail that included the combined efforts of Union Pacific Railroad and the Burleson Police Department's traffic unit.

On July 13, the railroad crossing on Alsbury Boulevard was the focus for two hours. One traffic officer was staged on each side of the tracks and one traffic officer was on the locomotive. When a violation was observed, a traffic stop was made.

In March 2011, only two citations were issued during that 90-minute timeframe. Then, the focus was on Alsbury as well as the Renfro Street crossing. In November 2010, nine citations were written. All of those citations were issued at the Alsbury crossing, although the detail also included the Renfro crossing. In April 2010, officers also wrote nine citations to drivers at both crossings.

Citations carry a fine of approximately \$176 in Burleson.

Since May 2009, three lives have been lost in crashes involving trains at railroad crossings in Burleson. Prior to 2009, the most current train-related fatalities included two teenagers lost in two separate railroad crossing accidents in the late 1980s. The Alsbury crossing was the site of a fatal crash involving a 23-year-old Burleson man in May 2009.

If the railroad crossing arms are down OR the warning lights are flashing, drivers may not cross the railroad tracks. Drivers must stop prior to the white stop bar painted on the pavement. Be sure you can clear the tracks by at least three feet on both sides. Never stop on the tracks. Drivers must stop and wait for the gates to go up and the warning lights to stop flashing before they can safely proceed over the tracks. It usually takes a train a mile or more to come to a full stop. According to railroad crossing safety information, it is nearly impossible to accurately judge the distance and speed of an oncoming train. At crossings that have adjacent tracks (Renfro Street), a train may be approaching from the other direction, so don't cross unless both tracks are clear.

The railroad crossing enforcement detail is scheduled quarterly with the Burleson Police Department and Union Pacific Railroad.