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Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-426-9622
F: 817-426-9390
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com

Stop when the railroad crossing signals flash red. That's the law.

On March 5, the Burleson Police Department, in cooperation with Union Pacific Railroad, conducted a railroad crossing enforcement detail at four crossings in Burleson between 12:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. The crossings included Eldred Street, Ellison Street, Renfro Street, and Alsbury Boulevard.

One officer rode the train while five others worked both sides of the tracks. The enforcement resulted in 27 stops. The officers issued 24 citations for disregarding a railroad crossing signal, one for interference with railroad property (a pedestrian crossed at an improper place), and six other citations. One person was arrested for a parole violation.

The fine for disregarding a railroad crossing signal is \$183. The fine for interference with railroad property is \$221.

The Burleson Police and Union Pacific have been conducting crossing enforcement details since 2008. In October 2013, officers from the police department and the City marshal division issued 13 citations for disregarding a railroad crossing signal, two warnings for disregarding a railroad crossing signal, and two citations for no insurance and driving while license is suspended. One person was arrested for outstanding traffic warrants. That enforcement covered the Renfro and Alsbury crossings.

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 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.

In October 2012, a man was transported to the hospital with what appeared to be non-life threatening injuries after the sport utility vehicle he was driving hit a train on West Renfro Street.

If the railroad crossing arms are down or the warning lights are flashing, drivers must stop before reaching the white stop bar painted on the pavement and wait

for the train. Flashing lights must be treated like a stop sign. 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. For more information, go to www.burlesontx.com/operationlifesaver.