

Four-quadrant crossing gates seal off key intersections when trains are crossing.



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## Rail Safety Week to Highlight Caution Around Crossings and Tracks

- **Rail operators to launch campaign during California Safety Week, Sept. 8 – 12.**

(Sept. 4, 2003) Metrolink, MTA and regional rail operators will use California Rail Safety Week, Sept. 8 – 12, as a high-profile effort to remind drivers and pedestrians to exercise caution around rail crossings and tracks.

The operators will launch Rail Safety Week with a media event, Monday morning, at Union Station. Scheduled speakers include state Business, Housing and Transportation Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet, Metrolink CEO David Solow and CEO Roger Snoble.

Underscoring the need to emphasize safety around the tracks are the 140 incidents and 30 fatalities at highway-rail crossings in California in 2002.

The Southern California Rail Safety Team offers a safety outreach program with tips for drivers and pedestrians at schools and community organizations throughout the year.

Metrolink is sponsoring a new public service announcement emphasizing safety, while MTA will open its [“Metro Experience”](#) mobile theater to the public for the entire week at the East Portal on Patsoauras Plaza.

### Employee hours for ‘Metro Experience’

MTA employees are invited to visit “Metro Experience” from about 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday. Public hours for the mobile theater are scheduled from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m., Tuesday through Friday.

Members of MTA’s Rail Safety Team – Barbara Burns, Yoon Ham, Joanne Longsdon, Carlos Valdez, Maria Mora, Walter Gonzalez and Jennifer Mendoza -- will host the mobile theater.

Along with vigorous law enforcement efforts, MTA has taken a number

of measures to ensure safety along its 73 miles of railway.

These include installation of four-quadrant crossing gates that seal off key intersections when trains are crossing, and pedestrian and swing gates that close many crossings to pedestrian foot traffic.

MTA also has placed loops in the roadway to detect and release vehicles caught between intersection crossing gates. Fiber optic signs also have been installed on at-grade traffic signal poles to give drivers advance warning of approaching trains.

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