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PRESS RELEASE

BISMARCK, ND-May 25, 2009 --Wednesday May 27, BNSF Railroad, ND Highway Patrol and ND Operation Lifesaver will be conducting an "Officer on the Train" enforcement operation from Dilworth, MN to Williston, ND. The purpose of this event is to increase public awareness of the potential dangers that exist at highway-railroad grade crossings and eliminate driver's actions that can have tragic consequences, by enforcing the traffic laws that pertain to these intersections. This event also gives the troopers the train crew's perspective.

During the "Officer on the Train" event, one trooper is placed in the lead locomotive of the train as a spotter. This trooper observes traffic approaching the highway-rail grade crossings as the train proceeds down the tracks. Other troopers pace the train or are parked at specific locations along the tracks. When a motorist or pedestrian is observed violating the law, the trooper on the train radios one of the chase cars, which stops the motorist, explains the dangers and issues a citation.

In North Dakota during 2008, there were 14 incidents at highway-rail grade crossings and on railroad rights-of-way resulting in 10 people injured and 3 fatalities.

"Tragic deaths at highway-rail grade crossings are preventable. We want to provide drivers and pedestrians with the tools and knowledge they need to make wise decisions around tracks and trains," said Operation Lifesaver State Coordinator, Serena Schmit.

We need *your* help! Please help us spread the word about railroad safety so we can end these tragedies.

The agenda for the train is as follows and may be subject to change:

*Dilworth	5:45 am
Sutton	8:00 am
Selz	9:15 am
*Minot	10:30 am
*Stanley	11:45 am
*Williston	1:00 pm

**Representatives will be available for interviews.*

News Department Information Only

For additional information on locations, times or interview opportunities contact:

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