



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Wednesday, March 7 has a lead-in and actualities dealing with railroad grade crossing accidents.

The U.S. Department of Transportation and the Association of American Railroads began a project in Alexandria today to improve safety at railroad grade crossings. With the start of an inventory and examination of the crossings, Federal Railroad Administrator John Ingram observed:

"Normally, we like to celebrate the completion of some program or project -- but this gathering is to signal the initiation of a project which we all hope will eventually correct a nationwide problem which has been with us for 150 years or more -- railroad grade crossing accidents.

"There are currently some 223,000 public grade crossings in the United States, where over 12,000 vehicle-train collisions occur every year, resulting in about 1,500 deaths and 7,000 injuries. While the number of these accidents may not seem significant when compared with the total number of accidents in the highway environment, the severity of grade crossing accidents makes them important. The ratio of persons killed and injured to the number of grade crossing accidents is over 40 times that of all motor vehicle accidents and is second in severity only to aviation accidents."

This has been the Transportation News Report. For further information dial 202-426-0881.

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