

Safety First:

# Why Photographers Must Stay Away from Train Tracks

*Operation Lifesaver Inc.*

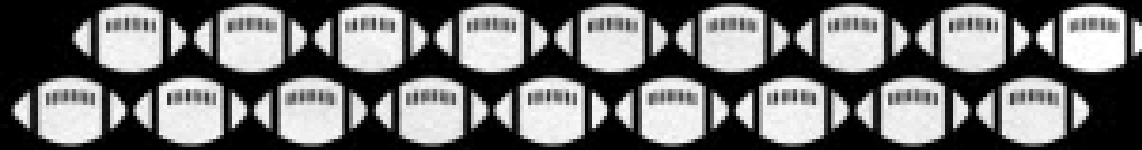
[www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org)

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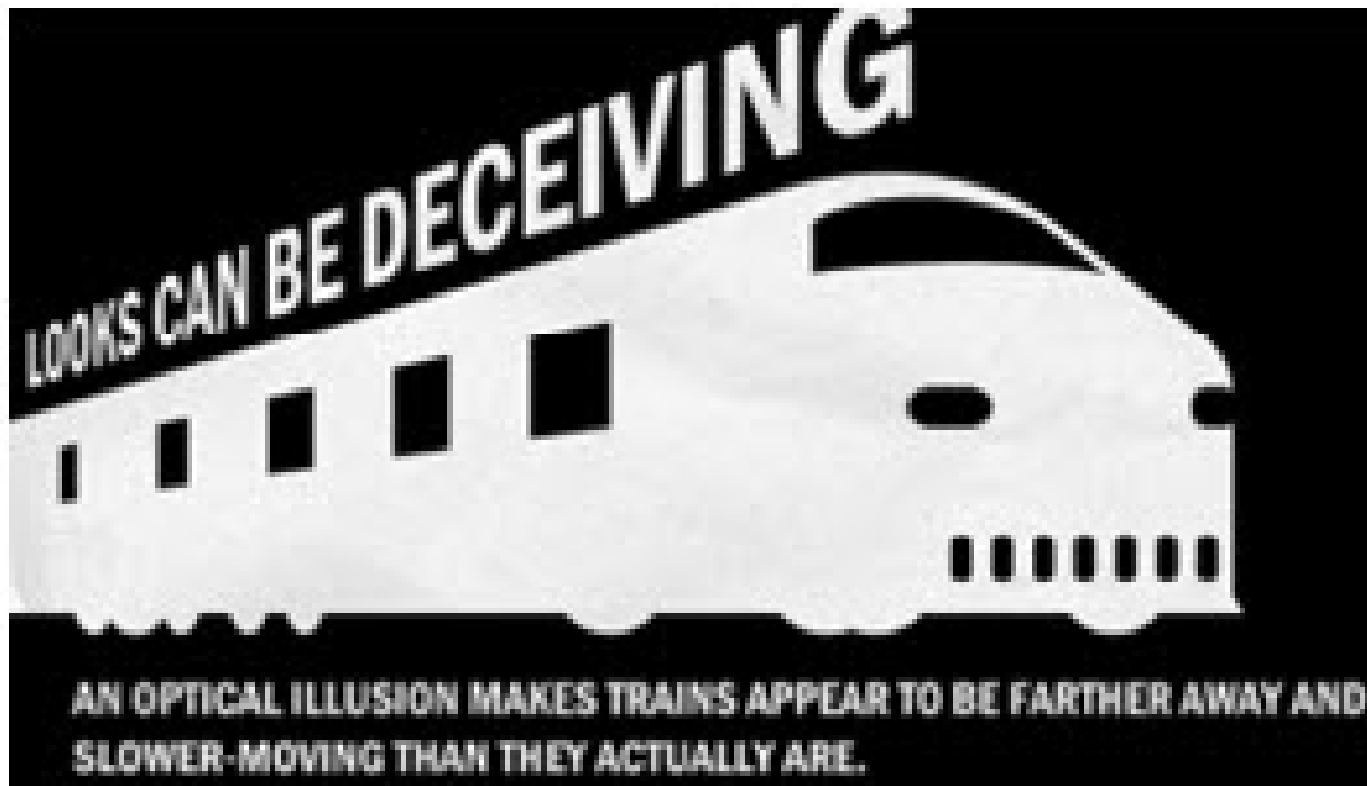


**A 100-CAR FREIGHT TRAIN TRAVELING AT 55 MILES  
PER HOUR REQUIRES MORE THAN A MILE TO STOP.  
THAT'S THE LENGTH 18 FOOTBALL FIELDS.**

**Trains Can't Stop Quickly . . .**

*The laws of physics in action.*

- 1. Trains can't stop quickly to avoid people or vehicles on the tracks.**



2. **An optical illusion makes it hard to determine a train's distance from you - and its speed.**



Photo credit: BNSF Railway

- 3. The average train overhangs the track by at least three feet on each side.**



Photo Credit: Capital Metro Rail, Austin TX

4. **Railroad tracks, bridges, yards and rights-of-way are private property – it's **illegal** to use them without permission.**

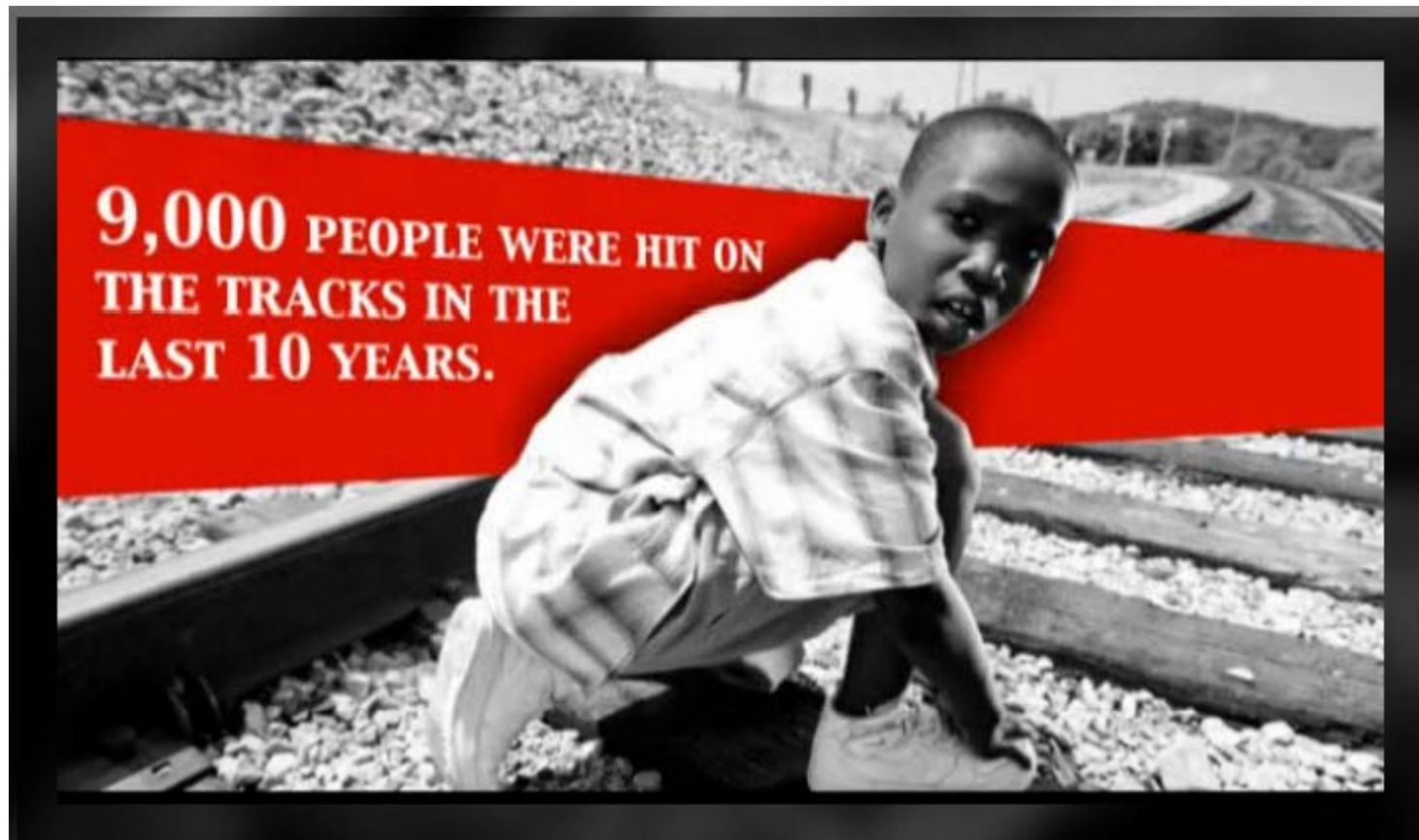


Photo Credit: Operation Lifesaver, Inc.

- 5. No tracks should be assumed to be abandoned or inactive.**

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Two Utah girls who were killed in train accident are identified

BY ERIN ALBERTY AND SHEENA MCFARLAND THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

PUBLISHED OCTOBER 17, 2011 10:39 AM

"They just loved nature, and they were taking pictures of fall," said Karen Webster, grandmother of Kelsea and Savannah Webster, who were with friend Essa Ricker when all three were struck by two trains passing each other Saturday night in Spanish Fork Canyon.

### 6. People in your community mimic your behavior.



# Did you know?

- About every **3 hours** in the United States, a person or vehicle is hit by a train.

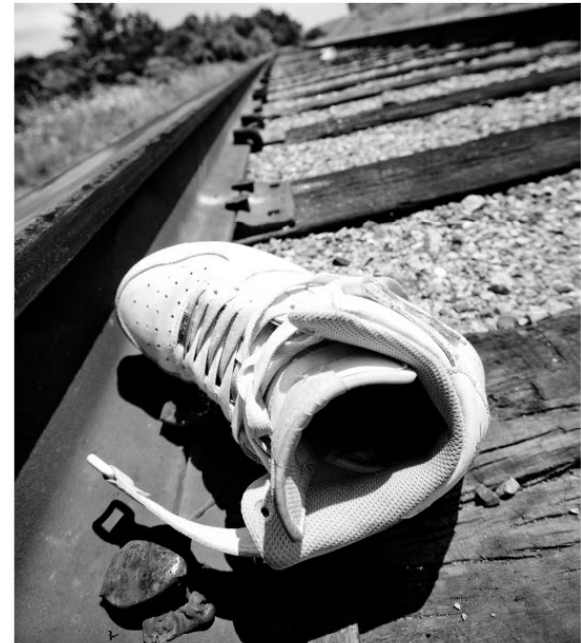


Photo: Operation Lifesaver, Inc.



# What You Can Do

- Contact the railroad company to request permission to photograph.
- Respect private property rights. Would you want another photographer using your studio without permission?
- When taking portraits of high school students and other children, be responsible, and stay safe.



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