



# SAFETY ADVISOR

SEPTEMBER 2022



## Stop. Trains Can't.



### Rail Safety Week

From September 12 through December 14, 2022, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are teaming up for the *Stop. Trains Can't.* safety campaign. The campaign kicks off Rail Safety Week, which is September 19-25, 2022. The *Stop. Trains Can't.* campaign aims to remind drivers to yield or stop at highway-rail grade crossings and to be alert for approaching light rail transit. The campaign focuses on reducing collisions, deaths, and injuries at freight and commuter train and rail transit train crossings. NHTSA wants drivers to understand that it's their responsibility to know and obey their state and local rail crossing laws. Read on for more safety tips and facts.

### **Freight and Commuter Trains**

- Between 2017 and 2021, there were 7,919 collisions between freight and commuter trains and motor vehicles, resulting in 620 fatalities and 2,965 people injured at public rail grade crossings.
- In 2021 alone, there were 1,627 motor vehicle collisions at public rail grade crossings, resulting in 126 fatalities and 505 people injured.
- Freight and commuter train incidents and fatali-

ties have declined dramatically for decades, but many drivers have disregarded warning signs or circumnavigated active warning devices in recent years. From 2017 to 2021, 1,679 collisions occurred when drivers went around or through a lowered gate, accounting for 21% of all collisions. These deaths were largely preventable and caused by risky driving behaviors and poor decision-making.

### **Rail Transit Trains (Light Rail and Passenger Rail)**

- In 2020, there were 449 motor vehicle collisions at rail transit train crossings, resulting in 7 fatalities and 139 people injured.
- Between 2015 and 2020, there were 4,046 collisions between rail transit trains and motor vehicles, resulting in 83 motor vehicle fatalities and 1,267 people injured.

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## **Right-of-Way for Vehicles**

- By law, all freight trains have the right-of-way at all at-grade rail crossings. State highway traffic safety laws require all drivers to slow, yield, or stop until the train has cleared the roadway and it is safe to proceed. It is illegal in most states to go around a lowered crossing gate or to ignore signs or flashing lights posted at a railroad or light rail crossing.
- Since light or passenger rail grade crossings can be located at intersections or midblock locations, including public and private driveways, the right-of-way rules vary. When the crossing is separated by something like a bridge or underpass, or protected by a fence or traffic barrier, and there are no traffic control devices, motor vehicles and other traffic are prohibited. However, if the light or passenger train operates within a separate traveled way or along a street or railroad where motor vehicles have limited access and cross at designated grade crossing locations only, the light rail vehicles usually have the right-of-way over other roadway users. Finally, when the light rail or passenger vehicle operates in mixed traffic where the roadway is shared with all types of road users, the light or passenger rail vehicles do not have the right-of-way over other roadway users at grade crossings and intersections. Instead, they are usually controlled with the same devices used by general traffic.

## **Know the Laws**

- Of the approximately 125,500 public rail grade crossings in the United States, roughly 56% are equipped with “active” warning devices, such as automated gates, bells, or flashing lights to alert drivers of an approaching train. The remaining public grade crossings are equipped with “passive” advance warning signs, such as crossbucks, yield, or stop signs.
- Motorists must yield or come to a complete stop at least 15 feet from a rail grade track if 1) flashing red lights are activated, 2) a crossing gate is lowered, 3) a flagman or law enforcement officer signals you to stop, 4) a stop sign is posted, or 5) a train is visible or a train whistle is audible.
- Rail transit trains have the same rights and responsibilities on public roadways as other vehicles. To increase motorists’ safety, be mindful of where rail transit trains operate; never turn in front of an approaching train; be aware that buildings, trees, etc., cause blind spots for the rail transit operator; and maintain a safe distance from the train if it shares a street with vehicular traffic.

## **Use Caution at Every Freight, Commuter, or Rail Transit Crossing**

- Freight and light rail trains cannot swerve, stop quickly, or change direction to avert collisions.

- The average passenger car traveling at 55 miles per hour can make an emergency stop in about 200 feet, whereas a light rail train may require about 600 feet — the length of two football fields — to stop. An average-length freight train traveling at 55 miles per hour may take the length of 18 football fields to stop.
- Ignoring rail signage or attempting to go around a lowered crossing gate can have deadly consequences. It is never worth risking your life or the lives of your passengers, train crew and their passengers, or others nearby by ignoring the law or racing a train.
- When approaching a grade crossing, slow down, look, and listen for a train on the tracks, especially at “passive” crossings.
- Look carefully in both directions before crossing a track — even during the day.
- Do not rely on past experiences to guess when a train is coming. Trains can approach from either direction at any time, especially in locations with multiple tracks.
- Never race a train. Due to optical effects, most people misjudge an approaching train’s speed and distance from the crossing, just as guessing the height or speed of an airplane in the sky is difficult.
- Before driving over a rail crossing, be certain there is enough room on the other side of the tracks for your vehicle to fully clear the crossing. Be aware that you may need to cross multiple sets of tracks at some railroad crossings.
- Never stop on the tracks. Keep moving once you have entered the crossing and, to avoid stalling, never shift gears on the tracks. If your vehicle does stall on a rail track — even if you don’t see a train coming — quickly move all occupants out and away from your vehicle and the track. Run toward the train and away from the tracks. If you run in the same direction that the train is traveling, you could be hit by flying debris when the train hits your car. When it’s safe to do so, call the number on the blue Emergency Notification System sign. If the sign is not visible to you, dial 911 for help.

For more information, visit [www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/rail-grade-crossing](http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/rail-grade-crossing).



<https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/rail-grade-crossing/stop-trains-cant>

*September brings fall, football, and...*  
**Responsible Dog Ownership Month**

**OMG! YOU'RE  
HOOOOME!**



**Drive safe to get home for that  
important game of fetch!**



**Let's Get Everyone Home**

**#dogmom #dogdad #TargetZeroFL**



**TargetZeroFL.com**





## TOOL SAFETY

Submitted by

Francisco "Frank" Jaconetta  
District Safety & Health Manager  
Florida Dept. of Transportation – District 6

# Hand and Power Tool Safety

### What the Regulations say about Hand Tools

- Each employer shall be responsible for the safe condition of tools and equipment used by employees.
- Each employee shall be responsible for reporting any damaged equipment immediately. Do not use damaged equipment.



### What are the most common injuries from Hand Tools

- Electric shock
- Flash burn
- Falling
- Hand and Eye injuries
- Hearing loss
- Crushing, cuts or losing a body part
- Ergonomic injuries



### **Basic Tool Safety Rules**

- Maintain regularly
- Inspect the tool before each use
- Use the right tool for the job
- Operate according to manufactures' instructions
- Use the right Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Use guarding
- Properly storing
- Keep the workplace neat and free of clutter
- Use safe handling techniques

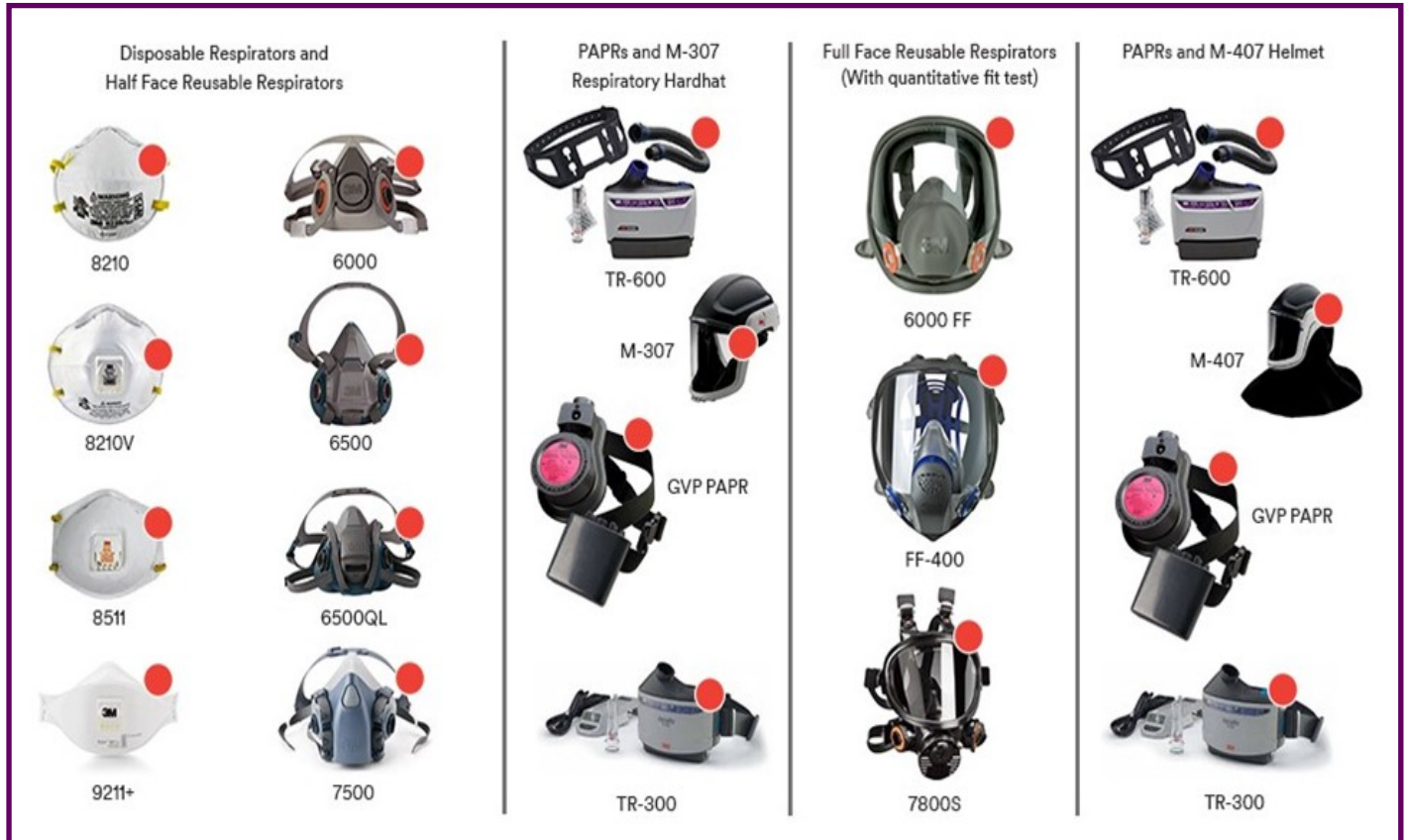
## **Examples of PPE**

| <b>Body Part</b>      | <b>Protection</b>              |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Eye</b>            | <b>safety glasses, goggles</b> |
| <b>Face</b>           | <b>face shields</b>            |
| <b>Head</b>           | <b>hard hats</b>               |
| <b>Feet</b>           | <b>safety shoes</b>            |
| <b>Hands and arms</b> | <b>gloves</b>                  |
| <b>Bodies</b>         | <b>vests</b>                   |
| <b>Hearing</b>        | <b>earplugs, earmuffs</b>      |

# RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

Submitted by

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## Respirator Inspection

Before each use:

- Make sure you have the right respirator for the job.
- Inspect it for wear and damage.
- Check for worn or frayed straps and hoses.
- Look for wear or damage on the seal of the facepiece.
- Check rubber and plastic parts for flexibility.
- Check for cracks or deformities in the face shield.
- Check condition of filters, cartridges, or canisters.
- Check the face shield for clear view.
- No cracks, gaps, or distortions.

### **Respirator Fit Check**

- Conduct prior to each use.
- For a respirator to work properly it must seal tightly to the face.
- Conduct a positive pressure check.
- Conduct a negative pressure check.
- Follow manufacturer's recommended procedures for performing positive and negative pressure checks.

### **Respirator Cleaning**

- Remove and clean filters, cartridges, valve assemblies and any other detachable parts.
- As you clean and dry each part of the respirator, inspect carefully to be sure it is in good condition.
- Make sure flexible parts are still flexible.
- Generally, a mild detergent and soft brush are used for cleaning.
- Thoroughly rinse the respirator in clean, warm water.
- Be sure all parts are thoroughly dry before putting the respirator back together again.

### **Reassemble and Test After Drying**

- Reassemble facepiece, replacing filters, cartridges, and canisters where necessary.
- Test the respirator to ensure that all components work properly.

### **Respirator Storage**

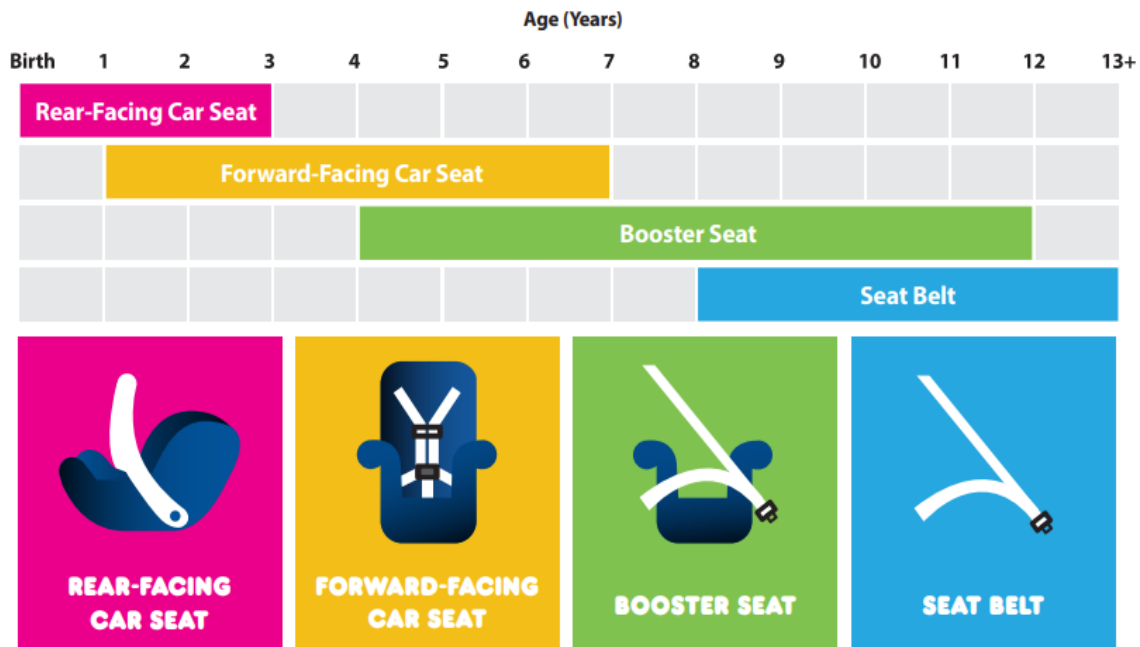
- Store your respirator where it will be protected.
- Seal the respirator in a plastic bag.
- Protect the respirator from dust, sunlight, extreme heat and cold, moisture, damaging chemicals, and physical damage.

Department references and guidelines outlining duties and responsibilities can be found in the Safety and Loss Prevention Manual (500-000-015-k), Chapter 13, 3, Respiratory Protection Program .



## Car Seat Recommendations for Children

There are many car seat choices on the market. Use the information below to help you choose the type of car seat that best meets your child's needs.



- Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, choose a seat that fits in your vehicle, and use it every time.
- Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions (check height and weight limits) and read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or lower anchors and a tether, if available.
- To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.

### Rear-Facing Car Seat

Birth – 12 Months

Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats:

- Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing.
- Convertible and All-in-One car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.



## Rear-Facing Car Seat(cont'd)

1 – 3 Years

Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward facing car seat with a harness and tether.



## Forward-Facing Car Seat

1 - 3 Years

Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether.



4 - 7 Years

Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.



## Booster Seat

4 - 7 Years

Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether until he she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.



or

8 - 12 Years

Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.



## Seat Belt

8 - 12 Years

Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.



### **NATIONAL SEAT CHECK SATURDAY**

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2022**



It's  
**CHILD PASSENGER**  
**SAFETY WEEK.**

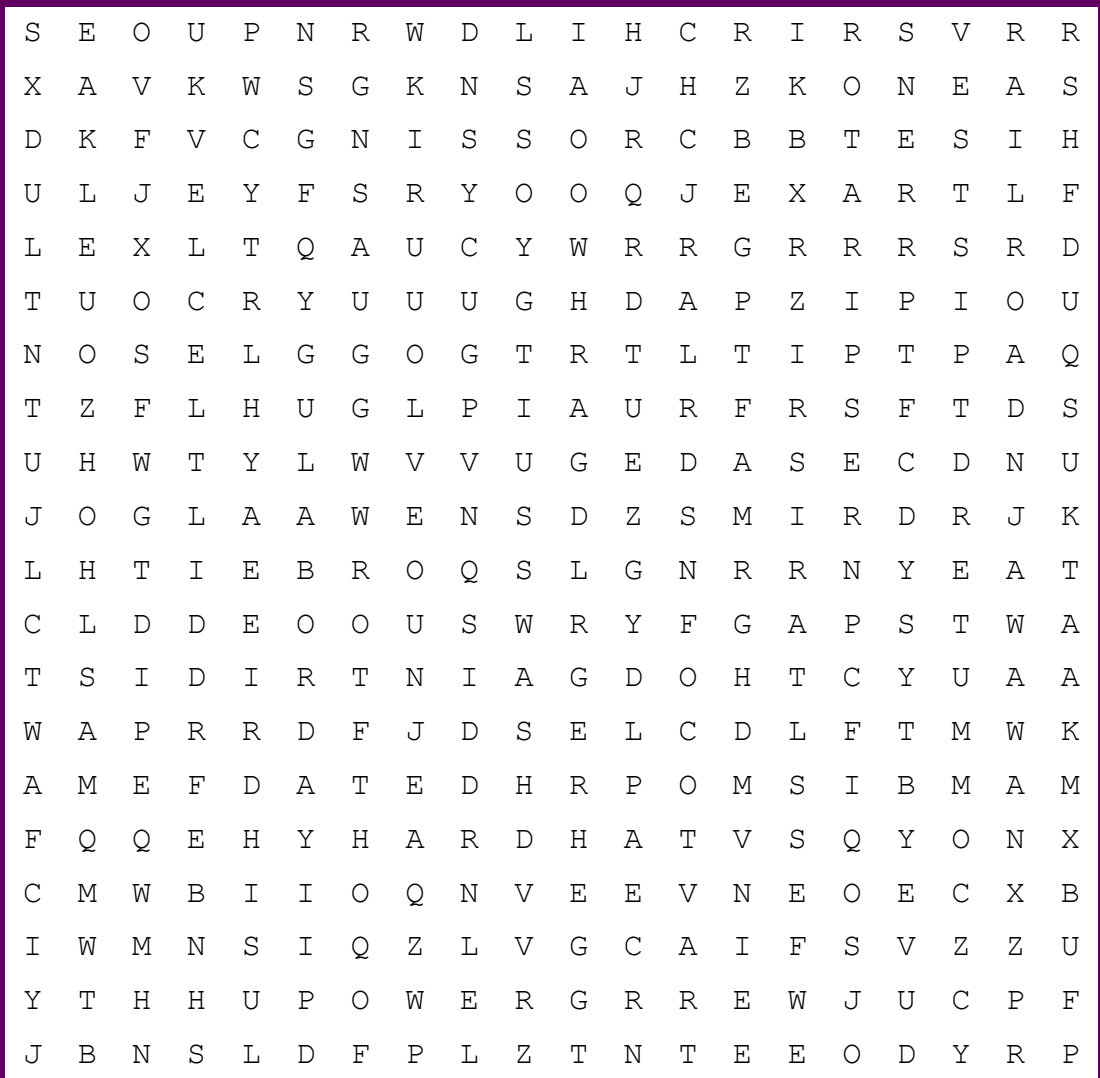
Is your child in  
**#therightseat?**

**SAFERCAR.GOV/THERIGHTSEAT**



<https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/documents/carseat-recommendations-for-children-by-age-size.pdf>

# Word Search Puzzle



CAR SEAT  
CROSSING  
FREIGHT  
GRADE  
LABOR DAY  
RESPIRATOR  
SOBER DRIVER  
TRANSIT

CHILD  
DRILL  
GLOVES  
HAND  
POWER  
SAFETY  
TOOL  
VESTS

COMMUTER  
EARPLUGS  
GOGGLES  
HARD HAT  
RAILROAD  
SAWS  
TRAINS

# SAFETY SLOGANS



This **LABOR DAY WEEKEND**  
**Celebrate Responsibly!**  
**Designate a Sober Driver.**

Funded by FDOT



**Hotline** **Hotline** **Hotline** **Hotline** **Hotline**

*Safety Hot Line*  
*(850) 414-5255*

You can report hazards by telephone.  
You can remain anonymous.  
Everything is confidential.

**Hotline** **Hotline** **Hotline** **Hotline** **Hotline**

**Hotline** **Hotline** **Hotline** **Hotline** **Hotline**

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Our internet address is: <https://www.fdot.gov/safety>





# SEPTEMBER 2022

| Sunday              | Monday                                | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday                | Saturday                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------|----------|-----------------------|--|
| 28                  | 29                                    | 30      | 31        | 1        | 2                     | 3  |
| 4                   | 5<br>LABOR DAY<br>HOLIDAY             | 6       | 7         | 8        | 9<br>PAY DAY          | 10                                       |
| 11<br>I<br>REMEMBER | 12                                    | 13      | 14        | 15       | 16                    | 17                                       |
| 18                  | 19 <b>CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK</b> |         |           |          | 22<br>FALL<br>EQUINOX | 24<br>NATIONAL<br>SEAT CHECK<br>SATURDAY |
|                     | 20 <b>RAIL SAFETY WEEK</b>            |         |           |          | 23<br>PAY DAY         |  |
| 25                  | 26                                    | 27      | 28        | 29       | 30                    | 1  |

## THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

|  |  |
|--|--|
| September 2022 is Observed as          | National Preparedness Month, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, Responsible Dog Ownership Month, Child Passenger Safety Week, National Seat Check Saturday, and NHTSA Rail Grade Crossing Campaign.. |
| Birthstone                             | Sapphire   |
| Fruit & Veggies for the Month          | Grapes, Peppers, Figs, and Tomatillos.   |
| September Flower                       | Aster & Forget me not  |
| Astrological Signs                     | Virgo (till 22nd) & Libra (23rd→ )   |
| Other Notable September Dates & Events | Sept 24: Family Health & Fitness Day USA   |