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The timeframe was shorter and compliance was higher in the railroad crossing enforcement detail Wednesday, March 30. The detail included the combined efforts of Union Pacific Railroad and the Burleson Police Department's traffic unit.

Only two citations were issued for disregarding a traffic control device at a railroad crossing. One driver was stopped and cited at the Renfro Street railroad crossing and the other driver was pulled over at the Alsbury Boulevard railroad crossing.

"Due to the need to open the railroad track sooner, the operation only ran 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.," Traffic Sgt. Brian O'Heran said. "But, based on what we observed, this time it seems that more people are complying with the law which will in turn help reduce the number of auto/train crashes."

The enforcement generally lasts four hours. One officer rides in the cab of the train to see if drivers are stopping as required or if they are disregarding the traffic control. Up to four other traffic officers are stationed on both sides of the track to stop violators.

In November 2010, nine citations were written for disregarding a traffic control device at a railroad crossing. All of the citations were issued at the Alsbury Boulevard crossing, although the detail also included the Renfro Street crossing. In April 2010, officers also wrote nine citations to drivers at both crossings.

Citations carry a fine of approximately \$176 in Burleson.

Since May 2009, three lives have been lost in crashes involving trains at railroad crossings in Burleson. Prior to 2009, the most current train-related fatalities included two teenagers lost in two separate railroad crossing accidents in the late 1980s. The Alsbury crossing was the site of a fatal crash involving a 23-year-old Burleson man in May 2009.

If the railroad crossing arms are down OR the warning lights are flashing, drivers may not cross the railroad tracks. Drivers must stop prior to the white stop bar painted on the pavement. Be sure you can clear the tracks by at least three feet on both sides. Never stop on the tracks. Drivers must stop and wait for the gates to go up and the warning lights to stop flashing before they can safely proceed over the tracks. It usually takes a train a mile or more to come to a full stop. According to railroad crossing safety information, it is nearly impossible to accurately judge the distance and speed of an oncoming train. At crossings that have adjacent tracks (Renfro Street), a train may be approaching from the other direction, so don't cross unless both tracks are clear.