



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth Police Department

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For more information contact Jim Hansen, Public Information Officer 218-390-2232



DATE: 07/18/2014
NATURE OF INCIDENT: Vehicle/Train Accident with Injuries
CASE NO.: 14155533
INCIDENT DATE :07/18/2014
INCIDENT TIME: 3:28 PM
INCIDENT LOCATION: 45th Avenue East Railroad Crossing
SUBJECT: Vehicle/Train Accident with Injuries
BY: DPD Public Information Officer Jim Hansen (218) 390-2232

On Friday, July 18th, 2014 at 3:28 Duluth Police responded to a car/train accident with injuries at the 45th Avenue East Railroad Crossing.

Initial investigation revealed that a 2002 Ford Windstar van driven by an 87 year old Duluth male was upbound on 45th Avenue East and was crossing the train tracks when he was hit in the left front of his vehicle by a North Shore Scenic Railroad train.

The driver was transported to Saint Luke's hospital for non-life threatening injuries. He was issued a citation for Fail to Yield to a Train at a Railroad Crossing.

It should be noted that last night (Thursday, July 17th) between 6pm & 8pm Duluth Police worked a special traffic detail in the Lakeside area from 6pm to 8pm to raise safety awareness for people to stop at stop signs at railroad intersections as well as to raise awareness with bicyclists on the Lakewalk to stop at stop signs where the Lakewalk crossed Avenues in that area.

The numbers for last night's education & awareness traffic detail were:

- *26 traffic stops of cars that failed to stop at stop signs on the Avenues at Railroad Crossings(the intersections focused on were 43rd, 45th & 51st Avenues East)*
- *18 subject stops on bicyclists that failed to stop for the Lakewalk stop signs*
- *Well over 125 positive contacts with individuals that were using the Lakewalk and stopping for the signs*
- *Lakeside/Lester Park Citizen Patrol handed out approximately 30 free ice cream cone coupons to kids wearing helmets on bikes.*
- *1 citation (for 2 charges) where the driving conduct was unacceptable.*

The goal was not to issue tickets, but raise awareness through education on these contacts for Railroad Crossing Safety and Bike Safety on the Lakewalk intersections at cross Avenues.