

Pawnee Nation
of
Oklahoma
Transportation Safety Management Plan



May 29, 2014

**THE PAWNEE NATION OF OKLAHOMA
TRANSPORTATION SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN
2014**

The Pawnee Nation resides in, what are now, Pawnee, Payne and Kay Counties of Oklahoma, within the traditional boundaries of the lands that the Tribe has occupied since 1875. As a Nation, the Pawnee are committed to the welfare and safety of their people and their neighbors. This commitment includes the prioritization of policies and programs intended to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries and improve the overall safety of the transportation system in their homeland.

As part of an ongoing effort to make safety improvements, this Safety Management Plan has been developed with input from a variety of agencies and individuals within the Nation, in cooperation with the United States Government, Oklahoma State Government, and various non-tribal communities sharing the territory and roads within the traditional boundaries of the Pawnee Nation. The plan is intended to outline existing programs and policies, as well as identify issues and procedures or projects that can be implemented to further improve transportation safety for the Pawnee Nation, its people, and others living within or visiting the traditional Pawnee lands of Oklahoma.

The Pawnee Nation has implemented or is currently working on several safety programs and has developed relationships with other government entities to help assist in safety improvements. A Pawnee Nation Tribal Safety Coordinating Committee will be formed to keep safety concerns at the forefront. A complete list of these current programs, as well as other safety issues that have been identified, is included in Attachment A, but below are some of the highlights:

- Pawnee Nation Fire and Rescue Department. – The PNFRD not only provides fire service, but also provides EMT and 911 responses. The majority of the personnel are certified as either a Medical 1st Responder or EMT-Basic.
- Department of Environmental Conservation and Safety (DECS). DECS is responsible for environmental safety, as well as hazard management and response.
- Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC). TERC is responsible for emergency planning and Continuity of Governance. The TERC also coordinates with county governments in their Hazard Mitigation Plan.
 - Substance Abuse Program (SAP). SAP provides counseling service and community prevention activities within a 35-mile radius of Pawnee.
 - Pawnee Nation Department of Transportation and Safety (PNDOTS) works with city, county, state, and federal agencies to identify and mitigate safety issues on the roadways of the Pawnee Nation.
 - Defensive Driver Training. PNDOTS partners with the Southern Plains TTAP Center at Oklahoma State University to provide National Safety Council Defensive Driver training.

In an effort to further enhance safety efforts and save lives, the following items have been identified as a priority for expansion or initiation for the Pawnee Nation over the next 3 to 5 years:

Engineering Issues and Concerns

The Pawnee Nation and the Southern Plains Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP) Center coordinated a Road Safety Audit (RSA) Training and Field Visit in Pawnee, OK, December 5-6, 2013. The RSA focused on four locations:

1. The intersection of Harrison Street and U.S. 64. This is a four-way stop controlled intersection with a high incidence of injury and property damage crashes.
2. The intersection of 4th Street and U.S. 64. This is an angled intersection with poor visibility and a steep slope.

3. The area surrounding the new bridge at Catlett Road and U.S. 64. Four crashes have occurred at this location pedestrian traffic is a concern.
4. The sharp curve on Catlett Road, east of the railroad underpass. Poor visibility due to the geometry of the road and vegetation. Poor signage.

The RSA Team recommended a series of short and long-range mitigation measures for the identified locations:

1. Location 1. Short range: Provide roadway delineation with pavement markings and designated no-parking areas. Provide pavement markings to provide positive driver guidance. Review and improve signage. Reduce sign clutter. Consider adding a traffic signal., and better pedestrian access. Long range: Improve parking alternatives near the intersection. Provide driveway definition. Consider complete new intersection configuration.
2. Location 2. Short range. Provide roadway delineation and driver guidance with pavement markings, improve signage and sign placement. Long range: Realign the intersection to change the angle of entry onto U.S. 64.
3. Location 3. Short/Mid-range: Create an access management plan to close Cleveland Street and the north end of 1st street. Add sidewalks and/or bike paths and widen shoulders. Short range: Post pedestrian warnings. Long range: Add pedestrian crossing, stop light on U.S. 64. Add traffic calming measures and approach signals to U.S. 64 approaching the location from the south. Add bus turnaround on 1st street near location.
4. Location 4. Short range: Add reflectors and advance curve warning signs and chevrons. Remove vegetation and debris. Long range: Construct alternate road on west side of the railroad.

Issue Champion: Pawnee Nation Department of Transportation and Safety (PNDOTS), Chris McCray, Manager.

In addition to the locations identified in the Road Safety Audit, the safety planning stakeholders identified a number of other locations that present safety concerns:

- Pedestrian Crossing, corner of 7th Street and Harrison. This is at the Cultural Learning Center. For pedestrian safety, signage and sidewalks need to be installed/improved.

Issue Champion: Karla Knifechief, Chris McCray, Jerry Rolland

- Norfolk Road and Highway 51, east of Yale, Oklahoma. Overgrown trees reduce visibility and sight distance. Issue Champion: Kevin Burns, Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the ODOT Maintenance Department.
- U.S. 64 from Pawnee 4-way to Highway 99. Ruts in pavement and no turn out lanes. This is on the ODOT 8 year plan.

- 3450 Rd. and U.S. 64. Poor site distance.

- 3540 Rd. and U.S. 64, South on Maramec Rd. to the City of Yale. and C Street in Yale. Rutting, potholes on bridge over turnpike.

Issue Champions: Zach Cavett, Payne County Commissioner, and Chris McCray, PNDOTS.

- State Highway 51, 2 ½ miles east of Yale Oklahoma. Multiple driveways along the highway have poor site distances, passing vehicles, and modest access. Issue Champion: ODOT Division 4 Engineer.

Issue Champion: ODOT. This section of S.H. 51 is on the ODOT 8-year plan for construction.

- Highway 18 north of Pawnee. Sharp curve contributing to roadway departure crashes. Suggest reduced speed, center-line and shoulder rumble strips, chevrons, or lighting.

Issue Champion: Chris McCray, PNDOTS.

- Railway crossings throughout Pawnee. These pose a serious safety threat to traffic, as well as to children crossing tracks to get to school.

Issue Champions: Jim McCormick, Pawnee County Commissioner and Chris McCray, PNDOTS.

- Pedestrian Safety on the Pawnee Nation Reserve. There are a number of locations on the Reserve that see fairly heavy pedestrian traffic for both service access and recreational walking. The sidewalks on the reserve are sometimes inadequate or in poor repair, and there are no walking trails. Adding/repairing sidewalks would increase pedestrian access and safety, and constructing walking trails at various locations would not only improve safety, but also encourage exercise and a healthier lifestyle.

Issue Champion: PNDOTS.

Implementation: The above engineering items and issues will be addressed as funding is available and as the issue champions are able to coordinate action. The items and locations identified in the December 2013 Road Safety Audit will generally take precedence, in both funding and attention, unless otherwise directed by competent Tribal Authority, or as further analysis may indicate.

Emergency Response and Management

City of Pawnee Fire, Rescue and EMS Department

The City of Pawnee Fire, Rescue and EMS Department work alongside the Pawnee Nation in emergency response and management situations. The PFRED is responsible for coordination and control of all emergency and non-emergency calls for service involving Police, Haz-Mat, Fire and Emergency Medical Service, 24 hours per day, seven days a week, throughout the year, within the City of Pawnee and some surrounding areas. PFRED utilize a wide range of tools that include multi-channel radio system and enhanced 911.

The PFRED currently has 1 fulltime Fire Chief, 4 dispatchers, 20 volunteer fire fighters, majority of which are Medical 1st Responders, EMT-Basics or EMT-Intermediates. The Fire Chief is James Novotny, pawneefd@cowboy.net
The PFRED is located at 510 Illinois Pawnee, OK 74058.
(918) 762-3166

911 for Emergencies

Pawnee is a city and county seat of Pawnee County, Oklahoma. The population was 2,190 at the 2010 census, a decline of 1.5 percent from 2,230 at the 2000 census. The city has a total area of 2.2 square miles (5.7 km²), all land. The racial makeup of the city was 63.18% White, 3.59% African American, 27.89% Native American, 0.18% from other races, and 5.16% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race was 1.03% of the population.

Pawnee Nation Fire and Rescue Department

The Pawnee Nation Fire and Rescue Department consists of 10 volunteer fire fighters. They are trained in firefighting, hazmat, rescue and emergency medical response. There are some concerns, however, that should be addressed in this plan:

1. The PNFRD responds to calls throughout the Nation's territory, but is sometimes hampered by poor communications in some of the more remote areas. The EMS communication system should be upgraded to reach these outlying areas, along with an overall improvement to the 911 system.
2. The City of Pawnee is bisected by the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad right-of-way. All but one of the railroad crossings are at grade. When a train is moving through the city, Emergency Response from the south to the north is cut off through 2/3 of the City.
3. The Pawnee Nation has a number of programs that involve transporting tribal elders to various venues, such as medical appointments, meal programs, and social/educational events. There is a need for First Aid and CPR training for drivers in these programs.

Issue Champions: Jim McCormick, Pawnee County Commissioner, District 2, James Novotny, Pawnee Fire Chief, and Chris McCray will address the EMS communication and railway issues; the Southern Plains TTAP and PNFRD will champion the First Aid training.

Implementation: Improvements to the 911 System and to EMS communications will be reviewed and a funding/deployment source will be

sought. The issue of trains blocking access to emergency services will be addressed with BNSF Railroad's office in Ft. Worth, Texas. The SPTTAP and PNFRD will schedule First Aid and CPR training as requested by the Pawnee Nation.

Enforcement

City of Yale Police Department

The Pawnee Nation will seek to enhance the relationship with the Yale Police Department in Yale, OK, which is in Payne County, and is also home to many members of the Pawnee Nation.

The Yale Police Communications Department is responsible for coordination and control of all emergency and non-emergency calls for service involving Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Service within the City of Yale and some surrounding areas.

Yale Police and Fire Department Communications currently have 6 local dispatchers, who serve the community. The dispatchers are part of combined efforts of both the Police and Fire Department.

Yale Communications is manned 24 hours per day, seven days a week, throughout the year. Communications Specialists (Dispatchers) work a variety of shifts to ensure the best coverage for the Police, Fire services and EMS they coordinate. Communications Specialists utilize a wide range of tools to include multi-channel radio system, enhanced 911 and computer services to include N.C.I.C (National Crime Information Center, FBI). and O.L.E.T's (Oklahoma Law Enforcement Telecommunications System to assist them in their duties. The Yale Police Chief is Phillip Kelly.

The contact number for the Yale Police Communications Department:
(918) 387-2403
911 for emergencies

The City of Yale, Oklahoma

According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 0.9 square miles (2.3 km²), all land. As of the census of 2010, there were 1,227 people residing in the city.^[7] The population density was 1,473.3 people per square mile (569.4/km²). There were 604 housing units at an average density of 670 per square mile (259/km²).^[7] The racial makeup of the city was 87.63% White, 6.93% Native American, 0.30% Asian, 0.15% from other races, and 4.99% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race was 0.98% of the population.

Issue Champion: The Pawnee Nation Tribal Police Department and PNDOTS.

Implementation: The Pawnee Nation Police Department and PNDOTS will invite a representative from the Yale Police Department to serve on an area Pawnee Nation Transportation Safety Coordinating Committee.

Speed Management

The Pawnee Nation will seek to decrease the speed limit on the Reserve, along with stricter enforcement of existing speed limits.

Highway 18, north of Pawnee, was noted as a specific area of concern. The possibility of lowering the speed limit here was discussed.

The Nation will also seek to have more enforcement on Highway 18 and McElroy, as this has been identified as a dangerous intersection. Possible speed limit reductions were discussed for that location.

Seatbelt Enforcement

A continued focus on the “Click it or Ticket” campaign will be carried out. Coordinated safety checkpoints will be conducted between law enforcement agencies.

Issue Champion: The Oklahoma Highway Patrol, Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), PNDOTS, the Pawnee Nation Police Department, the Pawnee County Sheriff's Department, the City of Pawnee Police Department, and the Yale Police Department.

Implementation: The Tribe will request that ODOT conduct a traffic study on Highway 18 on the approach to the golf course to assess whether a lower speed limit is warranted. The intersection of Highway 18 and McElroy will also be studied for a possible speed limit reduction. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol will place increased emphasis on speed management and seatbelt enforcement in their areas of jurisdiction.

Low Cost Mitigation

As more data is collected, the Tribe may see additional areas that could benefit from low cost safety mitigations. This data could provide justification for funding of needed road improvements in certain areas.

PNDOTS is encouraged by safety engineers from ODOT to visit www.cmfclearinghouse.org/, a website showing the success of certain low-cost mitigation techniques used. A crash modification factor (CMF) is a multiplicative factor used to compute the expected number of crashes after implementing a given countermeasure at a specific site. The Crash Modification Factors Clearinghouse maintains a web-based database of CMFs along with supporting documentation to help transportation engineers identify the most appropriate countermeasure for their safety needs. Using this site, one can search to find and CMFs or submit a jurisdiction for CMFs to be included in the Clearinghouse.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recently published the seventh edition of Countermeasures that Work, a reference guide to assist those involved in highway safety, such as law enforcement, in selecting effective, evidence-based countermeasures for traffic safety problem areas. All chapters of the guide were revised and updated, and information and research studies through May 31, 2012, were reviewed and included as

appropriate. Several new countermeasures were introduced in this edition, including countermeasures addressing:

- Alcohol vendor compliance checks
- Minimum drinking age law enforcement
- Strengthening child/youth occupant restraint laws
- Cell phone/text messaging education and enforcement
- Pedestrian gap acceptance training
- Bicycle safety education for bike commuters
- Bicyclist passing laws

The report is available in the resources section of the CMF Clearinghouse website. The above countermeasures should be considered as new enforcement activities. For more information about Countermeasures that Work, contact Kristie Johnson at Kristie.Johnson@dot.gov.

Issue Champion: PNDOTS, ODOT, and area law enforcement.

Implementation: PNDOTS will look at areas previously identified where low-cost mitigation efforts could reduce crash fatalities. Area law enforcement entities will also work with the Pawnee Nation Division of Education on bicycle safety education and pedestrian safety. Law enforcement will also employ alcohol vendor compliance checks and minimum drink age enforcement.

City of Pawnee Police Department

The Pawnee Nation Police Department will continue to work with the Pawnee Police Department on safety checkpoints and other matters of safety that arise. The department consists of five full time CLEET Certified Officers and 9

Reserve CLEET Certified Officers. The **police chief is Herb Adson**. Located at 510 Illinois Street in Pawnee, OK, their phone number is (918) 762-3166.

Pawnee Nation Division of Law Enforcement

The Pawnee Nation Police Department continues to provide law and order within the jurisdiction of the Pawnee Nation, which include the counties of Pawnee, Payne and Kay. The Pawnee Nation Police department was established in the early 1980's and receives operational funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Pawnee Nation Police Department currently operates with one Chief of Police and four patrol officers. All of our officers attend the 16-week U.S. Indian Police Academy held in Artesia, NM. Services provided by the police department include assisting citizens, responding to emergency situations, assisting with court process services, monitoring severe weather conditions, providing routine patrols of the Pawnee Nation businesses and casinos and providing security at tribal events such as the Pawnee Indian Veterans Homecoming/Powwow. Any Tribal member may also request a patrol of their residence when they are away for an extended period.

The Pawnee Nation Police Department has established a good relationship with the local law enforcement agencies and has a current cross deputation agreement with the Pawnee City Police Department and the Pawnee County Sheriff's Department.

David Kanuho, Chief of Police, Pawnee Nation

dkanuho@pawneenation.org

(918) 762-3013

Dial 911 for emergency calls

Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
301 Agency Road
Pawnee, OK 74058

Pawnee County Sheriff's Office

The mission at the Sheriff's Office is to enhance the quality of life in Pawnee County by serving and protecting our community through excellent law enforcement services. The sheriff's office is proud of the services it provide sand is equally proud of the confidence the public has in them and their capabilities. The Pawnee County Sheriff is Mike Waters. The Sheriff's Office is located at 500 Illinois Pawnee, Ok 74058. The sheriff's office is (918) 762-2565.

Issue Champion: PNDOTS and Pawnee Nation Police Department.

Implementation: PNDOTS and Pawnee Nation Police Department will invite representation from the City of Pawnee Police Department and the County Sheriff's office at the meeting of the Tribal Safety Coordinating Committee.

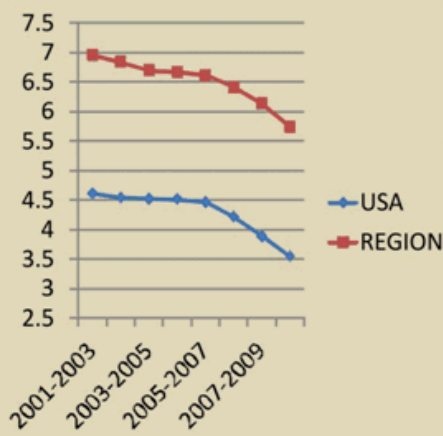
Education

DUI and Alcohol Abuse

DUI and alcohol abuse will continue to be an area of focus in the Pawnee Nation. The Nation will conduct an assessment of the education programs that are in place to combat underage drinking, while educating drivers of all ages on the dangers of impaired driving.

FARS data indicates 220 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities in 2011, representing 32% of all fatalities in the State. Although overall fatalities have been declining over the past 5 years, alcohol-impaired fatalities continue to represent an increasing portion of the fatalities experienced in Oklahoma. Additionally Oklahoma ranks 46th in impaired driving fatalities and 51st in the ability to improve its fatality rate. Additional analysis of trend crash data by the University of Central Oklahoma indicates a projected future increase in alcohol-impaired traffic fatalities. (Oklahoma Highway Safety Office Performance Plan 2014, http://ok.gov/ohso/documents/2014HSPP-FINAL_Rev_4.pdf)

.08+ Fatality Rates and Rankings



	2001-2003	2008-2010	CHANGE
LA	7.33 45th	6.35 47th	Down 13.3% 44th
MS	9.2 48th	8.14 49th	Down 11.6% 46th
NM	8.21 47th	5.45 42nd	Down 33.6% 13th
OK	6.02 36th	6.19 46th	Up 2.8% 51st
TX	6.62 40th	5.28 41th	Down 20.2% 33rd

SOURCE: National Center for Statistics and Analysis | NHTSA FARS: All rates are per 100,000 population / 3 year moving averages

The Pawnee Nation Substance Abuse Program (SAP) provides counseling services and community prevention activities for the treatment and prevention of alcoholism and substance abuse among the eligible Indian population within the service area of Pawnee. The service unit area for the Substance Abuse program is a thirty-five mile radius of Pawnee.

The Indian population served is approximately 3,600 Native Americans representing the Pawnee, Ponca, Otoe-Missouria, Osage, Kaw and Tonkawa Tribes. The community based prevention service includes the identification of persons at risk for developing problems related to substance abuse issues.

Direct services provided to individuals and/or groups include outpatient counseling for adult clients, referral to primary residential programs and outreach and aftercare treatment services. The SAP emphasizes improved self-image, value and attitude clarification, decision-making and recognition of the physical and emotional effects of alcohol and substance abuse and constructive processes for dealing with stress.

Substance Abuse Services

- Alcohol and drug abuse outpatient counseling

- Help for families in crisis, referrals to inpatient treatment centers, medical and non-medical detoxification and other services as needed
- Individual counseling for adult clients
- Weekly support groups
- Other services include community education, client education, prevention activities and a Fitness Center

Support Group Meetings are Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. at the Substance Abuse Office.

Barbara Attocknie, ICADC, Program Coordinator
battocknie@pawneenation.org

Mike Ortiz, SAP Counselor
mortiz@pawneenation.org
 (918) 762-2153 Fax (918) 762-3740

Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma Substance Abuse Office
 311 Maintenance Road P.O. Box 470
 Pawnee, OK 74058

Youth Services Department

This department provides Native students educational opportunities as well as cultural awareness. This program targets Native youth with a cumulative blood quantum of 1/8 degree of Indian blood by providing direct services that includes educational support, cultural activities and athletic support. The Youth Services Program is facilitated through a combination of efforts to enhance education and create environments that support cultural activities. The goal is to encourage individuals to remain active participants to obtain the optimal experience that provides a balance of educational opportunities and cultural awareness.

To preserve and protect the Native American youth and those in the Pawnee tribal area, the Youth Services Department will work to coordinate safety programs for area youth. These programs will target topics such as impaired

driving, distracted driving, and substance abuse. Area resources such as the Oklahoma Safety Council's **Alive at 25** program can assist in achieving these goals.

Eligibility Requirements for Pawnee Nation Youth Services:

Must be in Pre-K through 12th grade and enrolled in public school.

1. A member of an Indian tribe or at least 1/8 degree Indian blood a descendant of a member of an Indian Tribe which is eligible for the special programs and services provided by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.
2. Certified letter of a tribal affiliation or a copy of a Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB).

Suzy Knife Chief Youth Services Coordinator

(918) 762-3227

Fax: (918) 763-3662 suzys@pawneenation.org

Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma Cultural Center

657 Harrison Street P.O. Box 470 Pawnee, OK 74058

Issue Champion: The Pawnee Nation Substance Abuse Program, The Pawnee Nation Education Division, the Oklahoma Safety Council, and the Southern Plains TTAP.

Implementation: The Tribe will collaborate with area schools, Youth Services, Indian Health Services, the Department of Public Safety, and others to assess the education efforts that are currently underway to combat drinking and driving. The Tribe will work to collaborate on those efforts. A grant application on the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office website may be able to assist the Tribe in some of their educational initiatives. See the link to the application:

http://www.ok.gov/ohso/Grant_Information/Grant_Application/index.html.

Also, the Oklahoma Safety Council and the Southern Plains TTAP can assist in providing Defensive Driving classes and **Alive at 25** classes.

Seatbelt Usage

Seatbelt usage is another area of concern for the Pawnee Nation. An assessment of the education programs that are in place to address seatbelt usage and the need for marketing campaigns to target these issues will be examined. The Oklahoma Highway Safety Office has a presentation that they bring to communities, which includes a rollover demonstration.

A grant from the Tribal Transportation Program Safety Funding program may be able to assist in this goal. <http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/ttp/safety/> Again, Indian Health Services, the Education Department, television, and radio can disseminate seatbelt messages through their appropriate channels.

Issue Champion: Indian Health Services, Community Health Representatives (CHRs), The Pawnee Nation Education Division, Division of Grants and Contracts, Oklahoma Highway Safety Office, and *Chaticks si Chaticks* Newsletter.

Implementation: The Tribe will contact Indian Health Services, The Pawnee Nation Education Division, CHRs, and media to assess the efforts that are currently underway to address seatbelt usage. Possible marketing campaigns and seatbelt surveys may follow these assessments. Division of Grants and Contracts will explore grant opportunities.

Distracted Driving

The problem of distracted driving is another area of increasing concern for the Pawnee Nation. The Southern Plains TTAP addresses this problem through their Defensive Driving classes. The Oklahoma Safety Council also can provide ***Alive at 25*** classes for students.

Issue Champion: The Pawnee Nation Education Division, CHRs, *Chaticks si Chaticks* Newsletter, Southern Plains TTAP, and the Oklahoma Safety Council.

Implementation: The Pawnee Nation Education Division should contact the Southern Plains TTAP for Defensive Driving classes and the Oklahoma Safety Council for **Alive** at 25 classes.

Billboard, Newspaper, and Web

Various tools are available to disseminate the message of safety. The Pawnee Nation Education Division, the Communications Office, Indian Health Services, and CHRs can utilize these various forms of media to share the safety message.

Issue Champion: The Pawnee Nation Education Division and Community Health Representatives in collaboration with the Pawnee Nation Communications Office.

Implementation: As CHRs and the Pawnee Nation Education Division prioritize safety issues for the Pawnee Nation, marketing campaigns can be developed and disseminated through the Pawnee Communications Office.

Bicycle Safety for Children

Every year, about 300,000 kids go to the emergency room because of bike injuries, and at least 10,000 kids have injuries that require a few days in the hospital. Some of these injuries are so serious that children die, usually from head injuries.

A head injury can mean brain injury. That's why it's important that children learn about bicycle safety and the importance of **wearing a helmet**. (http://kidshealth.org/kid/watch/out/bike_safety.html) A bike rodeo is a fun way to encourage children to use helmets and teach them the rules of the road. SAFE KIDS Oklahoma has helpful information about bicycle safety and can provide resources to help children learn to ride safely. The Pawnee Nation Police Department can work with CHRs and representatives from the Education Division to coordinate this event.

Issue Champion: The Pawnee Nation Education Division (Suzy KnifeChief, Director, Youth Services) Community Health Representatives, and the Pawnee Nation Police Department.

Implementation: The Pawnee Nation Police Department can work with CHR's and representatives from the Education Division to coordinate a Bike Rodeo for the Nation.

Railroad Safety for Children

With the increasing presence of trains in the Pawnee area, educational programs should be developed to inform children of the dangers of trains and crossing tracks.

Over the past five years, Oklahoma ranked 20th nationwide in the number of collisions at highway rail grade crossings, with 264 collisions reported resulting in 26 deaths. Oklahoma has realized a 8 percent decrease in collisions and a 22 percent decrease in fatalities over the last four years. A Northwestern University statistical study concluded that at least 20% of the reduction in fatalities can be attributed to safety education. (OHSO 2014 Safety Performance Plan: http://ok.gov/ohso/documents/2014HSPP-FINAL_Rev_4.pdf)

Operation Lifesaver is a group of authorized volunteer speakers and trained instructors who offer free rail safety education programs in fifty states. The organization speaks to school groups, driver education classes, community audiences, professional drivers, law enforcement officers, and emergency responders. The programs are co-sponsored by federal, state and local government agencies, highway safety organizations and America's railroads. Together, they promote the three E's - education, enforcement and engineering - to keep people safe around the tracks and railway crossings within the nation's communities.

Oklahoma Operation Lifesaver will train and certify volunteers as "Presenters" to make rail grade safety presentations. Certified volunteer presenters will make railway crossing safety presentations and conduct training throughout

the state to various groups, including law enforcement officers, school children, driver education classes, bus drivers, professional drivers, businesses, and an array of community and civic groups. Operation Lifesaver will work with BNSF railroad and local governmental agencies to promote safer rail grade crossings in their communities.

Goals:

- Support Operation Lifesaver with railroad safety education classes.
- Support Operation Lifesaver to distribute radio public service announcements statewide.

Issue Champion: The Pawnee Nation Education Division (Suzy KnifeChief, Director, Youth Services) Operation Lifesaver (Oklahoma representative, Sherry Soliz, <mailto:OKOL@swbell.net>), and PNDOTS.

Implementation: The Pawnee Nation Education and PNDOTS can coordinate presentations in the schools with Operation Lifesaver.

Creation of a Transportation Safety Coordinating Committee

The process of building a viable Safety Management System will require various stakeholders to maintain communication. The Tribe desires to establish a core Transportation Safety Coordinating Committee, which includes participants of the Pawnee Nation Safety Workshop. This team would meet on a regular basis to assess ongoing safety efforts within the Tribe, City, County, and State. Players that could contribute to this group include the County Sheriffs office, PNDOTS, the Division of Education, the Division of Health and Community, the Division of Law Enforcement, the Division of Administrative Affairs, Indian Health Services, and the area schools. The Transportation Safety Coordinating Committee will monitor the progress of the safety initiatives outlined in the plan.

