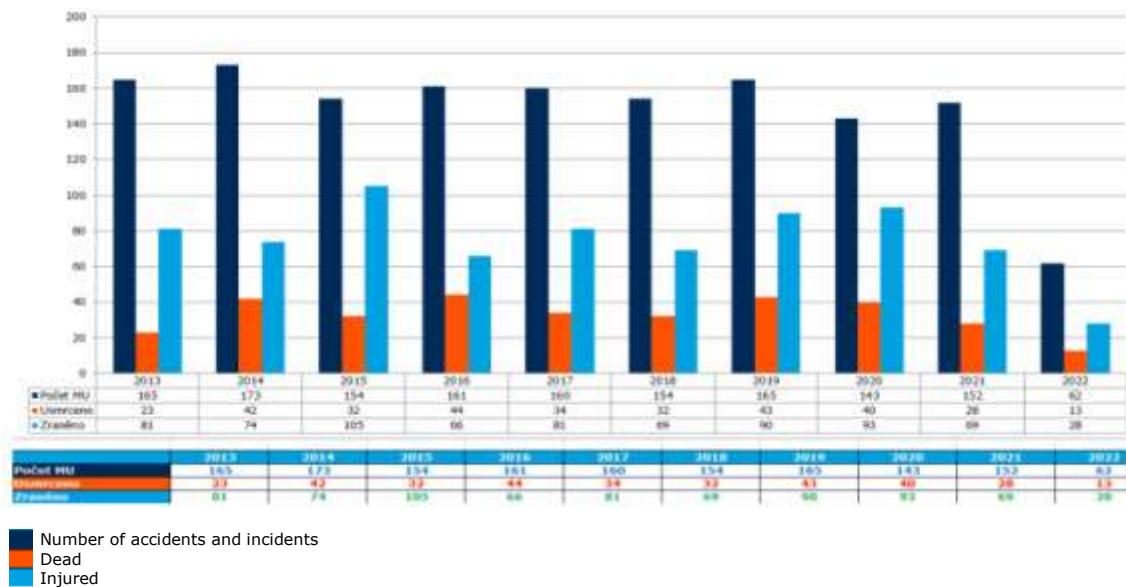


PRAHA, 14 June 2022

Don't Put Your Life At Risk! Stay Away From Tracks!

Moment of inattention, a bad decision or a gamble. These are the most common reasons for collisions at level crossings. In the vast majority of cases, drivers are to blame, but pedestrians and cyclists are also at fault. In an effort to draw attention to the often tragic consequences of these unnecessary accidents, Správa železnic has traditionally joined the International Level Crossing Awareness Day ILCAD 2022. Message of the 14th annual safety prevention event is *"Don't Put Your Life At Risk! Stay Away From tracks!"*

"Level crossings are safe if their users behave properly. However, collisions between trains and rogue drivers still occur, on average every other day. Správa železnic therefore takes every opportunity to draw attention to the need for caution and compliance with the rules. If we can save even one life thanks to this campaign, it will be worthwhile," said Jiří Svoboda, Director General of Správa železnic.



Collisions at level crossings, situation as of 31 May 2022

ILCAD (International Level Crossing Awareness Day) was initiated in 2009 by the International Union of Railways (UIC). The purpose of the event is to minimise accidents with often fatal consequences. A collision between a train and a car or other obstacle at a level crossing can hardly be averted. For example, an express train running on a corridor at 160 km/h will run more than a kilometre after all braking systems have been applied until it comes to a complete stop. Thus if a driver decides to disregard the level crossing warning device and tries to pass just in front of an oncoming train, he or she gives the engine driver virtually no chance to avoid a collision.

Správa železnic invests several billions of crowns a year in modernising and increasing the safety of level crossings, which is reflected in the number of accidents at level crossings. 2020 was an exemplary year, when the fewest collisions between trains and road vehicles occurred since 2003, i.e. since the establishment of today's Správa železnic. Last year, the number of accidents increased slightly, but almost a third fewer people died than in the year before. Car drivers topped the list of culprits. They were behind 44 of the 62 collisions recorded so far this year.

This year Správa železnic plans to repair and modernise a total of 150 level crossings. One hundred and twenty-five of them should be equipped with barriers. Currently, the amount of CZK 2.4 billion has been allocated for these purposes. The list of level crossings to be upgraded includes level crossings with all types of roads. A total of 186 level crossings were upgraded last year.