

I have worked for the Kingsley Field Fire Department in Klamath Falls for 26 years, my current title is Assistant Chief of Operations. Train crossings around Kingsley have been an issue for our department since before I started. All entrances to Kingsley have train crossings and it's a discussion we have annually among our staff on public safety as well as our own.

The biggest problem we encounter is the response aspect. If/When we have a catastrophic event at Kingsley whether that is a military jet crash or a large frame commercial aircraft flying between Portland and Los Angeles diverting to us with an emergency, we will need many mutual aid resources from the community as quickly as possible, as of now the rail crossings can be blocked for as long as 45 minutes due to the main rail yard being less than a mile from our main entrance.

We have accounted for this delay in our daily operations and adapted to deal with it, but with the added length of trains our fear is they will block all entrances into or off Kingsley much longer than the 45 minutes and our contingency plans of going to another unblocked crossing fail as well.

Another aspect of this is we provide mutual aid to our community as there are only 2 career paid fire departments in Klamath County, we are heavily relied upon to assist our community off base. We have encountered many times over the years delays in our response to assist, which is not only frustrating to the responding crews but could have dire consequences for the person with the emergency.

In closing I just want to say thank you for your time and if you have any questions please call or email anytime, hopefully we can find a reasonable solution for all parties.

Respectfully,

Matt Chavarria

Kingsley Firefighters Assoc.