



## EFFINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contact: [EPD@EffinghamIL.com](mailto:EPD@EffinghamIL.com)  
217-347-0774, extension 5326

**January 8, 2026**

### Vehicle Strikes Train

At 7:07 P.M. on January 6, 2026, west of the intersection of Temple Ave. and 4<sup>th</sup> St., a vehicle driven by Lauran C. Mathis, 30, Effingham, struck a cargo rail car owned by Effingham Equity, 201 W. Roadway Ave, Effingham. Employees from Equity were operating a Track Mobile to push multiple rail cars northbound across Temple at a slow speed on the spur track owned by Equity when the crash occurred. Mathis sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was transported by Rural Med EMS to HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital for treatment. Mathis was cited for Disobeying Traffic Control Device.

**ALL INDIVIDUALS LISTED AS ARRESTED OR ISSUED A CITATION ARE INNOCENT  
UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY IN A COURT OF LAW**

*If you see it, say it! The Effingham Police Department encourages you to call the Police Department immediately at 217-347-0774 to report suspicious activity in your neighborhood or business district. Information can be given anonymously by calling the CRIME STOPPERS Tip Line at 217-347-6583. Anonymous callers can receive up to \$1,000 cash rewards.*