



10338 Miller Road
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RON (SPARKY) SPARKS **SENIOR STAFF CONSULTANT**

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Ron (Sparky) Sparks is a Senior Staff Consultant for ESi. Prior to joining ESi, Mr. Sparks amassed over 38 years of railroad and law enforcement experience, including 24 years in railroad operations, safety, claims/litigation, and executive leadership. Mr. Sparks is considered an expert in his field and speaks nationally on the important Safety and Security issues facing the Railroad industry today.

Legal and regulatory issues that govern railroads are specialties of Mr. Sparks, who served more than 24 years as a Director of Safety, Training and Legal Affairs with Arkansas & Missouri Railroad (AMRR). Mr. Sparks developed programs to reduce the risks of injury, illness, accidents, and damage to the environment and liability to the railroad company and its subsidiaries. He developed one of the first railroad camera systems installed on locomotives, which have become standard in the industry.

Mr. Sparks previously served as a Director in Compliance and Security. He administered federal compliance training in accordance with Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regulations, as well as the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) where applicable. He is a state certified instructor at two local police academies and has taught courses in grade crossing collision investigations, firearms, and defense tactics.

As an executive leader, Mr. Sparks had operational and financial responsibility along with shared ownership of multiple AMRR policies and processes, also serving as Corporate Representative on a variety of topics related to accident investigation, claim handling, and field safety. Mr. Sparks managed the litigation analysis of multiple railroad incidents, and was the company designated expert witness in State and Federal Court cases.

Areas of Specialization

Train Operations
Rail Safety, Rules, and Operations
Compliance and Security
Accident / Incident Investigation
Accident / Incident Case Analysis
Claims Investigation / Evaluation / Adjudication
Litigation Management
Evidence Preservation
Discovery Management / E-Discovery / Spoliation
Executive Leadership
Catastrophic Incident Response and Data Collection
Root Cause Analysis



Risk Analysis / Pre-Loss Audit
Environmental Health and Safety
Medical Case Management / Vocational Rehabilitation

Education

Law Enforcement Management. Arkansas. 2000
Ohio Police Academy. 1985
PLE Narcotics Academy. 1985
Arkansas Police Academy. 2000

Professional Affiliations/Honors

American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA)
 ASLRRA Safety and Training Committee
 ASLRRA Police and Security Committee
 First Chairman of the ASLRRA Police Committee, 2005
 ASLRRA Safety Professional of the Year (out of 550 railroads), 2017
International Chiefs of Police / Arkansas Chiefs of Police
International Martial Arts Hall of Fame
 Krav Maga Law Enforcement Defense Tactics, 2012
Private Investigator License in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Florida

Positions Held

Engineering Systems Inc., Dallas, Texas
 Senior Staff Consultant, 2023 – Present
Arkansas & Missouri Railroad, Springdale, AR
 Director of Safety, Training and Legal Affairs, 1998-2022
 Chief – Railroad Police, 1998-2022

Continuing Education

BNSF Derailment Analysis and Prevention School (1998)

Publications/Presentations

“Investigating Grade Crossing Collisions: The Railroad’s Perspective,” **R. Sparks**, Presenter, 29th Annual Railroad Liability Seminar, Chattanooga, TN, June 2024.

“Accident Investigations: Where to Begin,” **R. Sparks**, Presenter, American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association Annual Convention, Kansas City, MO, March 2024.

“Tragedy At The Crossing,” written and directed by **R. Sparks**, a grade crossing accident involving multiple van occupants and used for mass casualty training purposes by various organizations.

“Homeland Security Exercise,” written and directed by **R. Sparks**, a training exercise involving a hostage situation on a passenger train used for training purposes by various organizations.