



Newsletter
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This is the official newsletter of **Operation Lifesaver Utah**, a highway-railroad grade crossing safety program and a railroad trespass prevention program. To unsubscribe to this newsletter, please contact Vern Keeslar at olut@digis.net or call 801-310-1035.

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State Coordinator's Message – Walt Webster Appointed as Assistant State Coordinator

As many of you know, my wife Jennifer and I are co-state coordinators. We both work together to manage the Operation Lifesaver Utah program. Many of you work and see me as the face of Operation Lifesaver Utah. While I may be the common face as co-state coordinator, Jennifer does a lot of behind the scenes work that many of you do not see. Even with both of us working together, it still seems that we need assistance as we are only part-time.

Therefore, I am happy to announce that Walt Webster, long-time presenter and recent retiree of the Union Pacific Railroad, has accepted my invitation to become the Assistant State Coordinator for Operation Lifesaver Utah. I believe that Walt's experience as an excellent presenter and as a seasoned locomotive engineer will be an asset as the Assistant State Coordinator. He has demonstrated leadership skills working with the Utah State Office of Education in getting the Operation Lifesaver message in driver education classes and conferences. Walt will stay on as Area Coordinator for area two. Thanks Walt for accepting this responsibility!

New Board Member Appointed

Patrick McGrath, Special Agent and Regional Public Safety Manager for the Union Pacific Railroad, was appointed to the Operation Lifesaver Utah Board of Directors. Special Agent McGrath's has replaced Jerry Hardesty as Union Pacific's representative on the board. Welcome aboard Pat!

Two New Area Coordinators Named

Blaine Hadfield, Operation Lifesaver presenter and Eagle Mountain resident, will be our new Area Coordinator for area four, which covers Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah, Utah, and Wasatch Counties. Paul Hawker, long-time presenter and leader in many Operation Lifesaver areas, has been called to serve as a Bishop for the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints in Spanish Fork and needed to step aside for time commitment reasons.

Ken Carr, Operation Lifesaver presenter and resident of Henderson, Nevada will temporarily serve as Area Coordinator for area six, which covers Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, Piute, San Juan, Washington, and Wayne Counties. Thanks to both Blaine and Ken for volunteering in these two leadership positions.

Walt Webster Featured in Newspaper Article

The Ogden Standard-Examiner and reporter Sam Cooper published and wrote a story on January 7, 2008 entitled, "Railroad Conductor Toots Horn on Safety." The article talked about Walt and how he had a fatality on his fifth day working on the railroad. Walt is quoted as saying, "I know that anything that educates the public is not only a bonus to the public, but to the people who run the trains," Vern Keeslar is quoted, "Walt is one of our best presenters. He's a valuable asset to Operation Lifesaver and the residents of Utah." Walt has been a volunteer with Operation Lifesaver for 12 years and has presented the message of safety to thousands of driver education students in Utah.

They ran this article just a few days after Walt retired from the Union Pacific Railroad after more than 37 years. Now that Walt has more time on his hands, he will be doing even more with Operation Lifesaver Utah. Congratulations Walt on your successful career with Union Pacific!

Top Presenters

Congratulations to Phil Lavorgna, Andy Glad, and Walt Webster for our 2007 top presenters in Utah. Thank you for saving lives!

OL Utah Attends Conferences and Model Train Shows

Operation Lifesaver Utah is busy as ever attending conferences and displaying our booth. On January 17-19, 2008 our booth was at the Utah Fire and Rescue Academy Winter Fire School in St. George. Mike Clark, an Operation Lifesaver presenter, fireman with the South Salt Lake Fire Department, and a Union Pacific employee, represented us very well and made several good contacts.

On January 25 and 26, 2008 the booth was at the Thanksgiving Point Model Train Show in Lehi and at the Hostlers Model Railroad Show in Ogden on February 29, March 1, and 2, 2008. Thanks to Walt Webster, Blaine Hadfield, Bev Thrall, and Terri Fontaine for volunteering at the booth.

Finally, on March 24-27, 2008 the booth was at the Utah Chief of Police Association Conference in St. George. Larry Jacobs (pictured right) worked the booth and made several great contacts with law enforcement agencies. Thanks Larry for representing Operation Lifesaver at the conference!



Area Coordinators Contact Information

The Area Coordinators and their phone numbers are listed below. The Area Coordinators can schedule presentations and support presenters with materials or other Operation Lifesaver needs.

Area

1. Kathy Bessinger – (435) 279-8130 home
 - Box Elder, Cache, and Rich Counties
2. Walt Webster – (801) 295-5633 home
 - Davis, Morgan, and Weber Counties
3. Terri Fontaine – (801) 596-1889 home
 - Salt Lake, Summit, and Tooele Counties
4. Blaine Hadfield – (801) 376-7680 mobile
 - Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah, Utah, and Wasatch Counties
5. Garry Bringhurst – (435) 835-3431 home
 - Carbon, Emery, Grand, Juab, Millard, Sanpete, and Sevier Counties
6. Ken Carr – 702-271-9070 mobile
 - Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, Piute, San Juan, Washington, and Wayne Counties

For Operation Lifesaver materials for presentations and booths, contact Bev Thrall at 801-359-4569.