



This is the official newsletter of **Operation Lifesaver Utah (OL Utah)**, a highway-rail 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 – 2008 OL Utah Annual Report

Another year has passed and OL Utah has finished its annual report. While it is somewhat difficult to assemble all of the information that is needed for the annual report, the report provides good information for us to evaluate what happened in 2008. The following contains basic statistical information as it relates to OL data and reporting. Table 1 shows the highway-rail grade crossing and trespass incidents for both the United States and Utah. Utah's rank in 2008 for highway-rail crossing incidents was 14th best and for trespass incidents Utah was 13th best. We are consistently in the best 15 states most every year.

Table 1 - 2008 Crossing and Trespass Statistics

	Crossing	Crossing	Crossing	Trespass	Trespass
	Collisions	Fatalities	Injuries	Fatalities	Injuries
National	2,373	286	913	458	426
Utah	12	0	2	2	4

Source: Federal Railroad Administration

Table 2 shows the number of OL presentations and the number of people who received those presentations by category. I personally know of about 300 presentations and about 9,000 people that were not reported in 2008 for Utah. Reporting is extremely important to our program to show our safety partners the marvelous work that our volunteers perform in Utah. There are a few reasons why some presentations did not get reported. We are working on resolving those for 2009.

Table 2 - 2008 OL Presentations in Utah

Category	Number of Presentations	Number of Participants
K-8 Grade	16	1,028
High School	9	367
Drivers Education	455	14,501
School Bus Drivers	1	36
Professional Drivers	7	175
Law Enforcement	0	0
Emergency Responders	0	0
Miscellaneous Adult	7	606
Totals	495	16,713

Source: OL Utah 2008 Annual Report

In 2008, the OL Utah booth was represented around 20 times reaching approximately 4,000 people. Special thanks to all of our presenters and safety partners for the success we had in 2008.

New Safety Spots Make an Impact

Two new 30-second animated television public service announcements (PSAs) that use humor to convey a serious message about train safety for pedestrians and drivers began airing in November 2008 on broadcast stations in a number of states. Spanish versions of the PSAs were also produced. The PSAs were posted on YouTube and OLI's website to increase visibility. News releases on the campaign resulted in media coverage, and the resulting hits to www.oli.org/shark have made it the site's third most popular page.



OL Utah Finds New Home

Since 1996 OL Utah has been housed in the Union Pacific North Yard office building. As of April, our new office is located in the Cambridge Building located at 1323 West 7900 South in West Jordan. Special thanks to Union Pacific Railroad for many years of free storage space!

OL Utah Booth Update

OL Utah is busy as ever attending public events all over Utah and displaying our booth. OL Utah has attended the following for the first quarter of 2009:

- Ophir, Tintic & Western Model Railroad Club Train Show in Lehi in January.
- Zero Fatalities Safe Kids Fair in Sandy in February.
- Hostlers Model Railroad Festival in Ogden in March.

Thanks to all those who volunteer working at the booth and representing OL Utah. The photo to the right is part of the Keeslar family working the booth while at the model train show at Thanksgiving Point. From left to right are Sara, Ian, Jennifer, and Jacob.



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 OL 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 Bringham – (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 OL materials for presentations and booths, contact Bev Thrall at 801-359-4569.