

This is the official newsletter of Utah Operation Lifesaver (Utah OL), a nonprofit public safety education and awareness organization dedicated to eliminating collisions, fatalities and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and trespassing on railroad tracks.

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Executive Director’s Message – 2023 Utah Operation Lifesaver Annual Summary

Another year has passed, and Utah Operation Lifesaver has summarized the data for 2023. While statistics do not tell the entire story, data provides valuable information for us to evaluate what happened in 2023. One of the four E’s for Utah Operation Lifesaver and National Rail Safety Alliance is “Evaluation.” Rail safety in Utah for 2023 was about the same as last year. Table 1 shows the highway-rail grade crossing and trespass incidents for both the United States and Utah. In addition to freight and tourist rail, the statistics below include UTA TRAX light-rail and FrontRunner commuter rail numbers for Utah.

Table 1 – 2023 Crossing and Trespass Statistics

	Crossing Collisions	Crossing Fatalities	Crossing Injuries	Trespass Fatalities	Trespass Injuries
National	2,188	248	752	736	673
Utah	19	2	4	2	7

Source: Federal Railroad Administration, April 2024.

Table 2 shows the number of Utah Operation Lifesaver presentations given and the number of people who received those presentations by category. Reporting is extremely important to our program to show our safety partners the marvelous work that our volunteers perform in Utah. Please remember to report presentations and booths by the end of each month. All our presentations are reported to the National Rail Safety Alliance website at www.nrsainc.org

Table 2 – 2023 Utah Operation Lifesaver Presentations

Category	Presentations Given	Presentation Recipients
Pre-Kindergarten/8 th Grade	7	247
Driver’s Education (Online)	4,407	4,407
Driver’s Education (In person)	384	12,011
School Bus Drivers	22	729
General High School	2	76
General Adult	29	1,381
Professional Drivers	4	177
Totals	4,855	19,028

Source: Utah Operation Lifesaver, April 2024.

In 2023, the Utah Operation Lifesaver booth was represented **20** times reaching approximately **21,350** people. Special thanks to all our volunteers and safety partners for the success we had in 2023!

Utah OL Booth Update

Thanks to all those who participated in the booths sharing the Utah Operation Lifesaver rail safety messages. Utah Operation Lifesaver attended the following events during the first quarter of 2023.

- The Kanab Train Show at the Kanab Center in Kanab on February 9 and 10, 2024.
- The Hostlers Model Railroad Festival at Ogden Union Station in Ogden on March 1, 2, and 3, 2024.



Children playing at the Utah Operation Lifesaver display in Ogden Union Station on Friday, March 1, 2024.



Mae and Jennifer Keeslar working in the Utah Operation Lifesaver booth at the Kanab Train Show on Saturday, February 10, 2024.



Utah Transit Authority TRAX light-rail operator Juliana Real working in the Utah Operation Lifesaver booth at the Hostlers Model Railroad Festival in Ogden at the Ogden Union Station on Friday, March 1, 2024.