

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 – Utah Rail Safety Week 2024

Utah Rail Safety Week, September 23-29, 2024, was very successful. This year Utah Operation Lifesaver teamed up with Utah Transit Authority (UTA), the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), Utah Railway, and the Utah Department of Public Safety, which includes the Utah Highway Patrol (UHP) and the Utah Highway Safety Office (UHSO).

Utah Rail Safety Week hosted a full week of educational, enforcement and outreach activities. The goal of Utah Rail Safety Week was to raise awareness for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists on keeping themselves safe around railroad tracks and at railroad crossings. “We are grateful for the positive response from the media and our safety partners across Utah as many activities for Utah Rail Safety Week were carried out,” said Utah Operation Lifesaver Executive Director Vern Keeslar.”

This year safety partners from UTA, UDOT, UHP, and Utah Railway issued a press release instead of the normal press conference. This press release kicked off a full week of education, outreach, and enforcement activities to heed. In 2023, more than **36 railway incidents** resulted in **12 fatalities** and **11 injuries** in Utah. The press release also provided a link to www.rideuta.com/safety which provided highlighted videos of close calls from UTA’s TRAX light rail system and FrontRunner commuter rail system.

This year’s slogan was “*Safety in Seconds*” that included the following eight messages to stay safe.

- Look both ways.
- Don’t go around the gates.
- Don’t be distracted.
- Don’t race to beat trains.
- Hold your child’s hand.



Partner agency police enforcing the law at railroad crossings on Tuesday, September 24, 2024.



Utah Rail Safety Week Activities

The following list includes the events for Utah Rail Safety Week 2024.

Operation Clear the Track Tuesday – September 24, 2024

Utah Highway Patrol, UTA Police Department, and Provo City Police Department was out from 7:00 am to 8:30 a.m. enforcing safety to drivers and pedestrians at the following track crossings: Midvale Fort Union Station, Central Pointe Station, Ballpark, and Provo Central Station. Law enforcement

partners made 65 contacts and gave 27 citations.

Welcome Wednesday – September 25, 2024

Utah Operation Lifesaver was at the Provo City School District Transportation at 10 a.m. for a school bus media ride along across railroad tracks at 1120 East 1320 South, Provo, Utah.

UTA's Safety and Security team was at Layton City's Fire Department for the from 5:00 pm to 8:00 p.m. handing out rail safety information and helping educate attendees about rail crossing safety. 530 North 2200 West, Layton, Utah.

Transit Thursday – September 26, 2024

UTA Police and its K9 unit was at Murray Central Station from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, offering the public an opportunity to meet the dogs, ask questions and learn more about staying safe on UTA vehicles and property. Giveaway items were distributed to participants as a token of appreciation and as reminders to be safe at railroad crossings.

Football Friday – September 27, 2024

Utah Operation Lifesaver distributed educational posters at the following high school in time for high school football games to educate youth about the importance of crossing railroads safely:

- West Field High School
- Roy High School
- Clearfield High School
- West High School
- Murray High School
- Jordan High School

Social Safety Week – September 23-29, 2024

Throughout the week, UTA asked riders and others to share the safety rules you follow as you walk, ride your bike, or drive near tracks. Participants submitted pictures of safe behavior on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram using the hashtag #RailSafetyWeek and tag @rideUTA.

UTA reshared submitted photos throughout the week. Together, we can create a safer community by sharing the message of rail safety with others.

Thanks to all our safety partners and volunteers for helping to make Utah Rail Safety Week successful.