

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.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Craig Bolerjack**

Citizen at Large

**Jim Golden**

Utah Department of Transportation

**Jake Harrison**

Utah Railway

**Vern Keeslar**

Utah OL Executive Director

**Travis King**

Utah Transit Authority

**Brad Palmer**

Utah Department of Transportation

**Scott Robertson**

Utah Highway Patrol

**Terry Smith**

Utah Trucking Association

**Armando Tirado**

Savage Companies

**Audra Urie**

Utah State Office of Education

**Jeff Worthington**

Utah AFL-CIO

**Utah Operation Lifesaver**

2867 North 675 East

Lehi, UT 84043

(801) 310-1035

[olutah@gmail.com](mailto:olutah@gmail.com)

**Utah Operation Lifesaver**

Website

[www.utahoperationlifesaver.org](http://www.utahoperationlifesaver.org)

**National Rail Safety Alliance**

Website

[www.nrsainc.org](http://www.nrsainc.org)

## Executive Director's Message – 2024 Utah Operation Lifesaver Annual Summary

Another year has passed, and Utah Operation Lifesaver has summarized the data for 2024. While statistics do not tell the entire story, data provides valuable information for us to evaluate what happened in 2024. One of the four “Es” for Utah Operation Lifesaver and National Rail Safety Alliance is “Evaluation.” Rail safety in Utah for 2024 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: 2024 Crossing and Trespass Statistics**

	<b>Crossing Collisions</b>	<b>Crossing Fatalities</b>	<b>Crossing Injuries</b>	<b>Trespass Fatalities</b>	<b>Trespass Injuries</b>
<b>National</b>	2,246	266	744	696	632
<b>Utah</b>	15	3	3	3	4

Source: Federal Railroad Administration, March 2025.

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](http://www.nrsainc.org)

**Table 2: 2024 Utah Operation Lifesaver Presentations**

<b>Audience Category</b>	<b>Presentations Given</b>	<b>Presentation Recipients</b>
Pre-Kindergarten/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9	392
Driver's Education (In person)	379	11,728
School Bus Drivers	9	293
First Responders/Law Enforcement	0	0
General Adult	2	36
Professional Drivers	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>12,945</b>

Source: Utah Operation Lifesaver, March 2025.

In 2024, the Utah Operation Lifesaver booth was represented **18** times reaching approximately **11,985** people. Special thanks to all our volunteers and safety partners for the success we had in 2024!

## 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 2025.

- The Kanab Train Show at the Kanab Center in Kanab on January 17, and 18, 2025.
- The Utah Safe Kids Fair at the Mountain America Expo Center in Sandy on February 22, 2025.
- The Hostlers Model Railroad Festival at Ogden Union Station in Ogden on February 28, March 1, and 2, 2025.

## Booth Volunteers Needed

The Ophir, Tintic & Western Model Railroad Club will be holding the Spring Train Show at the Utah County Fairgrounds in Spanish Fork on Friday, April 4, and Saturday April 5, 2025. Booth volunteers are needed to work at the booth and share our message of rail safety education. Remember that booth volunteers receive \$25 gift cards to restaurants and businesses.

## Suicide Statistics

Unfortunately, some people choose to end their life prematurely. Sometimes they use the railroad tracks and trains to end their life. The Federal Railroad Administration has been keeping data on suicides since 2011. Table 3 shows the suicide statistics for 2024.

Table 3: Suicide Statistics						
	National			Utah		
Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injuries	Incidents	Fatalities	Injuries
2024	166	148	18	4	3	1

## Mike Murphy steps down as President of the Hostlers Model Railroad Club

After 36 years as president of the Hostlers Model Railroad Club, Mike Murphy has decided to step down as president but continue as treasure. Mike has written more than 400 president's messages in the Hostler News newsletter. Hostlers started in the spring 1988 with early members Dick Watson, Maynard Morris, Mike Murphy, and Brian Ripley all started meeting together. By September, the club had 20 members and met at each other's homes on a rotating basis. Under Mike's leadership, the club expanded in membership, created model railroad modules, held social events, created an annual model railroad festival, developed a model railroad museum at Newgate Mall, and inspired generations of model railroad enthusiasts. Hostlers Model Railroad Club has been a safety partner of Utah Operation Lifesaver since the 1990s. Thanks Mike for all that you have done model railroading and rail safety education in Utah!



Photo: Mike Murphy standing in front of the Utah Operation Lifesaver booth at the Hostler Model Railroad Festival in Ogden on February 28, 2025 just prior to the start of the show.