



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

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

Utah Operation Lifesaver

Website

www.utahoperationlifesaver.org

National Rail Safety Alliance

Website

www.nrsainc.org



Executive Director’s Message – 2025 Utah Operation Lifesaver Annual Summary

Another year has passed, and Utah Operation Lifesaver has summarized the data for 2025. While statistics do not tell the entire story, data provides valuable information for us to evaluate what happened in 2025. One of the four “Es” for Utah Operation Lifesaver and National Rail Safety Alliance is “Evaluation.” Grade crossing incidents for 2025 in Utah were worse than last year with an additional 10 more collisions, one more fatality, and one more injury than 2024.

Table 1 shows the highway-rail grade crossing incidents for both the United States and Utah. In addition to freight and tourist rail, the statistics below include UTA TRAX light-rail and UTA FrontRunner commuter rail numbers for Utah.

Table 1: 2025 Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Statistics			
	Collisions	Fatalities	Injuries
National	2,273	287	764
Utah	25	4	4

Source: Federal Railroad Administration, April 2025.

Trespassing claims even more lives nationwide than grade crossings. Trespassing was also up in Utah with three more fatalities and four more injuries than in 2024.

Table 2: Railroad Property Trespass and Suicide Statistics						
	National			Utah		
Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injuries	Incidents	Fatalities	Injuries
2025	1,705	998	791	12	8	4

Source: Federal Railroad Administration, April 2025.

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 2025.

Table 3: Railroad Property Suicide Only Statistics						
	National			Utah		
Year	Incidents	Fatalities	Injuries	Incidents	Fatalities	Injuries
2025	167	156	11	4	4	0

Source: Federal Railroad Administration, April 2025.

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 2026.

- The Kanab Train Show at the Kanab Center in Kanab on January 16, and 17, 2026.
- The Hostlers Model Railroad Festival at Ogden Union Station in Ogden on March 6, 7, and 8, 2026.

Scheduled events for the Utah OL booth include the following:

- Ophir, Tintic & Western Model Train Show in Spanish Fork on April 3 and 4, 2026.
- Union Pacific Railroad “Big Boy” engine display at Ogden Union Station on April 18 and 19, 2026.
- Utah Trucking Association Management Conference and Trucking Expo in St. George on May 7, 2026.

Utah OL 2025 Presentations

Table 4 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 special events by the end of each month. Volunteers reported **522** hours of volunteering giving presentations. All presentations should be reported to the National Rail Safety Alliance website at www.nrsainc.org

Table 4: 2025 Utah Operation Lifesaver Presentations		
Audience Category	Presentations Given	Presentation Recipients
Pre-Kindergarten/8 th Grade	1	37
Driver’s Education	372	11,584
School Bus Drivers	18	307
First Responders/Law Enforcement	0	0
General Adult	9	181
Professional Drivers	3	92
Totals	403	12,201

Source: Utah Operation Lifesaver, March 2026.

Utah OL 2025 Special Events

In 2025, the Utah Operation Lifesaver booth was represented **33** times, reaching approximately **16,814** people. For these special events, volunteers reported **162** hours at special events. Special thanks to all our volunteers and safety partners for the success we had in 2025!

Utah OL 2025 Special Events

Utah Operation Lifesaver trained 12 new volunteers on Friday, April 3, 2026 at the Utah Trucking Association in West Valley City. We had volunteers from the Utah Department of Transportation (3), Utah Transit Authority (3), Alpine School District (2), Salt Lake City School District (1), Union Pacific Railroad (1), Tooele Valley Museum (1), and one unaffiliated.

