

This is the official newsletter of **Operation Lifesaver Utah**, a highway-railroad 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 – OL President Guest Speaker in Utah

Helen Sramek, President of Operation Lifesaver (pictured right), was the guest speaker at the Utah Driver and Traffic Education Association conference on April 21, 2008 held in Sandy, Utah. Helen was invited by Gail Johnson, Utah State Office of Education and member of the Operation Lifesaver Utah Board of



Directors. Helen spoke about Operation Lifesaver and its mission of an international, non-profit public awareness and education program dedicated to ending tragic collisions, fatalities, and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and on railroad property. To accomplish its mission, Operation Lifesaver Utah promotes the three Es: Education, Engineering, and Enforcement. Helen provided some statistics and then presented some challenges of reaching the teenage demographic. She then unveiled the new "Look to Live" driver education video for the first time nationally during the conference. Vern Keeslar made two presentations to the driver education instructors, while Walt Webster worked the booth providing information to instructors.

New Films for Driver Education and Middle School

Operation Lifesaver has produced two new films. The first, as mentioned above, is "Look to Live." This new film shows six realistic on-the-road scenarios that demonstrate potential risks and what drivers must know to be safe at highway-rail grade crossings. This versatile education tool also provides students with the opportunity to view signs and signals operating at and near the railroad crossing. There is even a trauma room doctor segment that talks about what can happen when drivers let their attention drift from the road "for just an instant." It can be shown separately or along with the on-the-road segment.

The second new film is titled "Are You in Control?" The film engages middle school-aged students in a discussion about danger and risk related to tracks and trains. Several of their peers, who participate in stunt work in Hollywood and do sports like AAA hockey, kick boxing, and advanced

gymnastics, perform and talk about why they choose safety. Their outdoor training center in Clarista, California, is a quarter mile from railroad tracks. One of the coaches, Tom Rosales, who performed in each of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies, points out that it's not possible to have control over a train. This film is appropriate for ages 10-13.

Walt Webster Honored for Driver Education Work

Walt Webster received an award at the Utah Driver and Traffic Education Association conference on April 21, 2008 held in Sandy, Utah. Gail Johnson, of the Utah State Office of Education, presented Walt with a Certificate of Recognition for his constant service and work with the driver education program in Utah. Walt presents to 185 driver education classes yearly. Gail Johnson stated, "Walt has worked tirelessly in getting the message of rail safety to driver education students statewide." Congratulations Walt!



Photo above of Gail Johnson and Walt Webster.

New Presenter Training Conducted

Operation Lifesaver Utah teamed up with Operation Lifesaver Wyoming and trained eight new presenters on May 22, 2008. Darrell Real, Wyoming State Coordinator, and Kathy Bessinger, presenter trainer, conducted the day-long meeting at the Utah Trucking Association's offices. Walt Webster audited the class and welcomed the new presenters into one of the best volunteer organization around.



Pictured above from left to right is Darrell Real, Kenny Phillips, Bill West, Rick Staheli, Kathy Bessinger, Ken VanMoorhem, Carl Wright, Raymond Delgado, Trevor Stevens, Mason Haycock, Walt Webster, and Vern Keeslar.

OL Utah Booth is Busy

Operation Lifesaver Utah is busy as ever attending conferences and displaying our booth. In addition to the Utah Driver and Traffic Education Association conference on April 21, 2008, the booth was at the Child Protection Fair in Midvale on April 26, 2008.

On May 7-9, 2008 the booth was in St. George at the Utah Trucking Association conference. Finally, Operation Lifesaver was represented as judges at the Jordan School District Bus Rodeo on May 17, 2008 in West Jordan.

Thanks to Walt Webster, Larry Jacobs, Bev Thrall, and Terri Fontaine for volunteering at the booths. Picture right is Walt Webster and Daniel Kuhn of UDOT visiting from a neighboring booth.

