



This is the official newsletter of **Operation Lifesaver Utah (OL Utah)**, a highway-rail grade crossing safety program and a railroad trespass prevention program. To unsubscribe to this newsletter, please contact Vern Keeslar at [olut@digis.net](mailto:olut@digis.net) or call 801-310-1035.

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## State Coordinator's Message – 2013 Operation Lifesaver Utah Annual Report

Another year has passed and OL Utah has finished its annual report. While statistics do not tell the entire story, data in the report provides good information for us to evaluate what happened in 2013. Table 1 shows the highway-rail grade crossing and trespass incidents for both the United States and Utah. Utah's rank in 2013 for highway-rail grade crossing incidents was 14th best and for trespass incidents Utah was 14th best. We are consistently in the best 15 states most every year. The statistics below include UTA TRAX light-rail and FrontRunner commuter rail numbers for Utah.

**Table 1 – 2013 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>	2,085	250	943	476	432
<b>Utah</b>	17	4	5	3	1

Source: Federal Railroad Administration

Table 2 shows the number of OL 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. Reporting for 2013 was a great reporting year, but there is room for improvement. Please remember to report presentations within 10 days of giving them.

**Table 2 – 2013 OL Presentations in Utah**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Presentations Given</b>	<b>Presentation Recipients</b>
Pre K Headstart	2	55
K-8 Grade	43	5,815
High School	9	1,572
Drivers Education	565	16,525
School Bus Drivers	96	859
Commercial Buses	4	93
Professional Drivers	4	184
Law Enforcement	1	20
Emergency Responders	0	0
Miscellaneous General Adult	184	3,775
<b>Totals</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>28,898</b>

Source: OL Utah 2013 Annual Report

In 2013, the OL Utah booth was represented around **62** times reaching approximately **31,774** people. Special thanks to all of our presenters and safety partners for the success we had in 2013!

## OL Utah Board Member Passes Away



It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of long-time board member Matthew Riffkin. Matt suddenly passed away on June 4, 2014 at age 53. Matt was the President of InterPlan, successful transportation engineering and planning firm he started in 2001. Matt was a loving husband, father of two daughters and a great boss who was fair, honest, and funny. Matt was a great supporter of Operation Lifesaver Utah and served on the Board for eight years. We will miss Matt's leadership.

## OL Utah Booth Update

Operation Lifesaver Utah was busy as ever attending public events all over Utah and displaying our booth. Operation Lifesaver Utah has attended the following for the first and second quarters of 2014:

- Ophir, Tintic & Western Model Train Show on January 17-18, 2014.
- Kids Safe Fair on January 22, 2014 in Sandy.
- Hostlers Model Railroad Festival on February 28, March 1-2, 2014 in Ogden.
- Brigham City Emergency Preparedness Fair on April 12, 2014 in Brigham City.
- Utah Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association annual conference on April 28, 2014 in Park City.
- Hillside Elementary Safety Fair on May 1, 2014 in West Valley City.
- Utah Trucking Association Management Conference on May 8, 2014 in St. George.
- Department of Corrections Family Night on May 8-9, 2014 in Draper.
- National Train Day on May 10, 2014 in Ogden.
- Warriors Over the Wasatch Air Show on June 28-29, 2014 at Hill Air Force Base.

## Reporting OL Presentations and Booths

I want to provide a friendly reminder about reporting the presentations that you give. Please make sure that all of your presentations are reported from January through June of this year. Everyone should have a login, and password to report his or her presentations. As you know, reporting should occur within 10 days of the presentation. Effective this year, all booths are to be reported by the state coordinator. If you work a booth, please give me the numbers that you contacted so I can report the total numbers for that day. You should report the hours that you work in the booth. Please contact Vern Keeslar with any questions.

## Union Pacific/Operation Lifesaver Safety Train 2014

Union Pacific Railroad and Operation Lifesaver Utah teamed up on the 2014 Safety Train on June 26 and 27, 2014. On June 26, 2014, the Safety Train went from Salt Lake City to the causeway on the Great Salt Lake. The next day the Safety Train traveled from Salt Lake City to Stockton.

Pictured is Norm Nelson giving the OL presentation and Walt Webster holding the visual charts for a carload of captive passengers.

