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State Coordinator's Message – 2014 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 2014. Table 1 shows the highway-rail grade crossing and trespass incidents for both the United States and Utah. Utah's rank in 2014 for highway-rail grade crossing incidents was 11th best and for trespass incidents Utah was 10th 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. However, intentional incidents (suicides) are not included.

Table 1 – 2014 Crossing and Trespass Statistics

	Crossing Collisions	Crossing Fatalities	Crossing Injuries	Trespass Fatalities	Trespass Injuries
National	2,280	267	832	526	432
Utah	11	1	3	2	1

Source: Federal Railroad Administration, March 2015

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 2014 was a great reporting year, but there is room for improvement. Please remember to report presentations within 10 days of giving them.

Table 2 – 2014 OL Presentations in Utah

Category	Presentations Given	Presentation Recipients
Pre K Headstart	0	0
K-8 Grade	70	9,476
High School	6	158
Drivers Education	571	17,659
School Bus Drivers	117	3,178
Commercial Buses	0	0
Professional Drivers	7	233
Law Enforcement	5	72
Emergency Responders	0	0
Miscellaneous General Adult	142	2,945
Totals	918	33,721

Source: OL Utah 2014 Annual Report

In 2014, the OL Utah booth was represented 46 times reaching approximately 29,592 people. Special thanks to all of our presenters and safety partners for the success we had in 2014!

OL Utah Booth Update

Thanks for all those who participate in the booths sharing the Operation Lifesaver safety messages. Operation Lifesaver Utah attended following events during the second quarter of 2015.

- Be Fearless Conference on April 25, 2015 at the Salt Lake Community College Campus in Sandy.
- Morningside Elementary Health and Safety Fair on May 14, 2015 in Holladay.
- American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Rail Conference on June 21-23, 2015 in Salt Lake City.
- Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) Employee and Family Safety Fair on June 25, 2015 in Salt Lake City.

New OL Utah Booth Policy

We continue to get many requests for Operation Lifesaver to participate in safety fairs, model train shows, health fairs, conferences, and trade shows. It can be challenging trying to provide OL representatives

at all the booths. Therefore, the State Advisory Council has decided to incentivize those volunteers working the Operation Lifesaver booth. Gift cards from local restaurants and retail stores will be awarded to those who volunteer a shift at the various booth locations.

Operation Lifesaver, Inc. Awards \$205,000 for Rail Safety Public Awareness Campaigns in 13 States

Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI), in partnership with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), announced that \$205,000 in grants will be awarded to 13 state Operation Lifesaver programs for a variety of rail crossing safety and anti-trespassing public education projects. Most of the projects will incorporate public service announcements (PSAs) from the nonprofit safety group's "*See Tracks? Think Train!*" public awareness campaign.

The grants will be awarded to Operation Lifesaver organizations in Arkansas, California, Idaho, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee and Utah; individual grant awards will range from \$1,875 to \$20,000. **Utah received a \$20,000 grant, the maximum allowed.**

"The grants will fund a wide variety of projects to expand the reach of our ongoing safety campaign and further Operation Lifesaver's mission of eliminating collisions, injuries and deaths at crossings and along rail property," said Joyce Rose, OLI's president and CEO. "Thanks to our partnership with the Federal Railroad Administration, these activities will help raise awareness of the dangers near tracks and trains in many of the top states for these incidents."

The Federal Railroad Administration, a national partner and advisor of Operation Lifesaver, provides the funding for the grants.

"Safety is our number one priority at FRA, and we are proud to be a part of the "*See Tracks? Think Train!*" educational campaign and this important grant program," said Acting Federal Railroad Administrator Sarah Feinberg.

State programs will use the grants for a variety of efforts, including "*See Tracks? Think Train!*" PSA placements in movie theaters, on television, radio and billboards; digital media outreach; and conducting community events and rail safety enforcement blitzes. Both rail crossing safety and trespass prevention will be addressed by the state programs managing these projects.

The approved grants were awarded through a competitive process. Selections were made by a panel of railroad safety experts using criteria such as successfully leveraging the federal funds with private partnerships, targeted messaging and the frequency of pedestrian-train incidents and highway-rail collisions.