



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 – 2015 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 2015. Table 1 shows the highway-rail grade crossing and trespass incidents for both the United States and Utah. Utah's rank in 2015 for highway-rail grade crossing incidents was 12th best and for trespass incidents Utah was tied for first best. We are consistently in the best 15 states most every year. In addition to freight and tourist rail, the statistics below include UTA TRAX light-rail and FrontRunner commuter rail numbers for Utah. However, intentional incidents (suicides) are not included.

Table 1 – 2015 Crossing and Trespass Statistics					
	Crossing Collisions	Crossing Fatalities	Crossing Injuries	Trespass Fatalities	Trespass Injuries
<b>National</b>	2,059	244	967	526	432
<b>Utah</b>	11	3	6	0	0

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 2015 was a good reporting year, but there is room for improvement. Please remember to report presentations within 10 days of giving them.

Table 2 – 2015 OL Presentations in Utah		
Category	Presentations Given	Presentation Recipients
Pre K Headstart	3	90
K-8 Grade	24	1,657
High School	6	136
Drivers Education	552	17,305
School Bus Drivers	84	599
Commercial Buses	0	0
Professional Drivers	10	167
Law Enforcement	0	0
Emergency Responders	0	0
Miscellaneous General Adult	87	1,891
<b>Totals</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>21,845</b>

Source: OL Utah 2015 Annual Report

In 2015, the OL Utah booth was represented 25 times reaching approximately 19,230 people. Special thanks to all of our presenters and safety partners for the success we had in 2015!

## OL Utah Booth Update

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

- The Ophir, Tintic & Western Model Train Show on January 15 & 16, 2016 at Thanksgiving Point in Lehi.
- The iHeart Media Safe Kids Fair on February 27, 2016 at the Exposition Center in Sandy.
- The Hostlers Model Railroad Festival on May 3, 4, & 5, 2016 at Ogden Union Station in Ogden.
- Camp Williams Military Children Day on April 16, 2016 at Camp Williams in Bluffdale.
- Utah Drivers' Traffic and Safety Education Conference on April 25, 2016 at the Davis Conference Center in Layton.
- The Ogden Heritage Festival on May 14, 2016 at Ogden Union Station in Ogden.

## Operation Lifesaver, Inc. Awards \$20,000 to OL Utah for Crossing Safety Public Awareness Campaign

Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI), in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), announced \$175,000 in grants to 11 State Operation Lifesaver programs for a variety of highway-rail grade crossing safety public education projects, in conjunction with the nonprofit safety group's ongoing "See Tracks? Think Train!" public awareness campaign.

The grants will be awarded to Operation Lifesaver organizations in California, Georgia, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, and Utah. **Utah received a \$20,000 grant, the maximum allowed.** These state programs will use the funding to spread "See Tracks? Think Train!" (ST3) safety messages via television, radio, billboard, digital and magazine ads as well as events. Target audiences include students, agricultural sectors, outdoor enthusiasts, professional drivers, Spanish-speaking populations and the news media to raise awareness about the dangers near tracks and trains.

"The grants will fund creative projects in these states to raise awareness of the need for caution near highway-rail grade crossings among parents, new drivers, professional drivers, and others," said OLI President and CEO Bonnie Murphy. "We are grateful to our safety partners at FHWA for their ongoing support of these lifesaving efforts."

The Federal Highway Administration, a national partner and advisor of Operation Lifesaver, provides the funding for this grant program, which complements similar grant programs with the Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transit Administration.

"We are pleased to continue our alliance with Operation Lifesaver and its ongoing "See Tracks? Think Train!" educational campaign," said Federal Highway Administrator Gregory Nadeau. "These grants can help make travel in areas where roads and rails cross safer for vehicles and pedestrians."

Vern Keeslar stated, "Operation Lifesaver Utah is very pleased to receive this grant and perform a three-month radio campaign in July, August, and September using local sports celebrities and the "See Tracks? Think Train!" public service announcements."

