

This is the official newsletter of **Operation Lifesaver Utah (OL Utah)**, a nonprofit public safety education and awareness organization dedicated to reducing collisions, fatalities and injuries at highway-rail crossings and trespassing on railroad tracks.

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State Coordinator's Message – 2017 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 2017. Table 1 shows the highway-rail grade crossing and trespass incidents for both the United States and Utah. Utah's rank in 2017 for highway-rail grade crossing incidents was tied for 11th best and for trespass incidents Utah was tied for 13th 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 – 2017 Crossing and Trespass Statistics

	Crossing Collisions	Crossing Fatalities	Crossing Injuries	Trespass Fatalities	Trespass Injuries
National	2,115	271	829	520	507
Utah	8	2	1	2	2

Source: Federal Railroad Administration, June 2017.

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 2017 was a good reporting year, but there is room for improvement. Please remember to report presentations by the end of each month.

Table 2 – 2017 OL Presentations in Utah

Category	Presentations Given	Presentation Recipients
Pre-Kindergarten/Headstart	3	31
K-8 Grade	14	860
High School	15	331
Drivers Education	576	17,693
School Bus Drivers	86	659
Commercial Buses	0	0
Professional Drivers	6	49
Law Enforcement	0	0
Emergency Responders	0	0
Miscellaneous General Adult	28	637
Totals	728	20,260

Source: OL Utah 2017 Annual Report.

In 2017, the OL Utah booth was represented **26** times reaching approximately **21,205** people. Special thanks to all of our presenters and safety partners for the success we had in 2017!

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 2018.

- The Ophir, Tintic & Western Model Train Show at Thanksgiving Point in Lehi on January 12 & 13, 2018.
- The iHeart Media Safe Kids Fair at the Mountain America Expo Center in Sandy on February 24, 2018.
- The Hostlers Model Railroad Festival at Ogden Union Station in Ogden on March 2, 3, & 4, 2018.
- Nephi Community Night Out Against Crime at Juab Junior High School in Nephi on April 10, 2018.
- UDOT Zero Fatalities Safety Fair at the Utah Valley Convention Center in Provo on April 11, 2018.
- The Utah Trucking Association Conference at the Dixie Conference Center in St. George on May 10, 2018.
- Davis County Safe Kids Fair at Davis County

Legacy Events Center in Farmington on May 19, 2018.

- The Utah Department of Public Safety Family Safety Fair at the Utah Department of Transportation in Taylorsville on June 7, 2018.
- Rio Tinto Rail Family Days in Magna on June 9, 2018.
- National N Scale Convention and Model Train Show at the Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center in Salt Lake City on June 22 and 23, 2018.
- The Lehi Roundup Rodeo in Lehi on June 28, 29, and 30, 2018.

Suicide by Train Data

Beginning in 2011, the Federal Railroad Administration allowed railroads to report suicide or “intentional” as a separate category and not part of the trespass data. Table 3 shows the fatalities and injuries by suicide or attempted suicide.

Table 3 – Fatalities and Injuries by Suicide				
Year	National		Utah	
	Fatalities	Injuries	Fatalities	Injuries
2011	183	23	6	0
2012	269	46	2	1
2013	313	27	2	2
2014	273	39	3	0
2015	322	31	9	0
2016	229	33	5	2
2017	255	40	1	1
Total	1,844	239	28	6

Source: Federal Railroad Administration, June 2017.

We can all help prevent suicide. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline phone number is 800-273-8255. This Lifeline is free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals. If you know of someone that is in need of this phone number, please share it with that person.

