



**OPERATION
LIFESAVER®**

Utah

**Newsletter
Volume 15
Number Two
Second Quarter 2019**

This is the official newsletter of Utah Operation Lifesaver (Utah OL), 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 COORDINATORS

Vern and Jennifer Keeslar

Operation Lifesaver Utah

2867 North 675 East

Lehi, UT 84043

(801) 310-1035 Vern

(801) 473-1444 Jennifer

olutah@gmail.com

**UTAH OPERATION
LIFESAVER WEBSITE**

www.olut.usu.edu

**OPERATION LIFESAVER
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www.oli.org

State Coordinator's Message – 2018 Utah Operation Lifesaver Annual Report

Another year has passed and Utah OL 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 2018. Unfortunately, 2018 was not a good year for rail safety in Utah. Table 1 shows the highway-rail grade crossing and trespass incidents for both the United States and Utah. In addition to freight and tourist rail, the statistics below include UTA TRAX light-rail and FrontRunner commuter rail numbers for Utah.

Table 1 – 2018 Crossing and Trespass Statistics

	Crossing Collisions	Crossing Fatalities	Crossing Injuries	Trespass Fatalities	Trespass Injuries
National	2,110	263	836	540	481
Utah	28	5	8	1	3

Source: Federal Railroad Administration, July 2019.

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 2018 was a good reporting year, but there is room for improvement. Please remember to report presentations by the end of each month.

Table 2 – 2018 Utah OL Presentations

Category	Presentations Given	Presentation Recipients
Pre-Kindergarten/Headstart	7	76
K-8 Grade	16	376
High School	11	129
Drivers Education	557	17,658
School Bus Drivers	102	1,081
Commercial Buses	0	0
Professional Drivers	14	128
Law Enforcement	0	0
Emergency Responders	6	219
Miscellaneous General Adult	84	845
Totals	801	20,589

Source: Utah OL 2018 Annual Report.

In 2018, the OL Utah booth was represented 41 times reaching approximately 23,970 people. Special thanks to all of our presenters and safety partners for the success we had in 2018!

Utah OL Booth Update

Thanks for all those who participate in the booths sharing the Utah Operation Lifesaver safety messages. Utah Operation Lifesaver attended the following events during the first and second quarters of 2019.

- The Ophir, Tintic & Western Model Train Show at Thanksgiving Point in Lehi on January 11 & 12, 2019.
- The Kane County Train Show in Kanab on February 9, 2019.
- The Hostlers Model Railroad Festival at Ogden Union Station in Ogden on March 8, 9, & 10, 2019.
- The Ogden Union Station Heritage Festival at Ogden Union Station in Ogden on May 9, 10, and 11, 2019.
- The Utah Department of Public Safety Family Safety Fair at the Utah Department of Transportation in Taylorsville on June 20, 2019.
- The Lehi Roundup Rodeo in Lehi on June 27, 28, and 29, 2019.

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
2018	245	34	4	1
Total	2,089	273	32	7

Source: Federal Railroad Administration, July 2019.

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.

