

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 Coordinator's Message – 2019 Utah Operation Lifesaver Annual Summary

Another year has passed, and Utah OL has summarized the data for 2019. While statistics do not tell the entire story, data provides good information for us to evaluate what happened in 2019. Fortunately, 2019 was an improvement over last year for rail safety in Utah. Table 1 shows the highway-rail grade crossing and trespass incidents for both the United States and Utah. Utah's rank in 2019 for highway-rail grade crossing incidents was 22nd best and for trespass incidents Utah was tied for 15th best. 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**

	<b>Crossing Collisions</b>	<b>Crossing Fatalities</b>	<b>Crossing Injuries</b>	<b>Trespass Fatalities</b>	<b>Trespass Injuries</b>
<b>National</b>	2,225	297	815	578	534
<b>Utah</b>	16	4	6	3	4

Source: Federal Railroad Administration, July 2020.

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 2019 was a good reporting year, but there is room for improvement. Please remember to report presentations by the end of each month.

**Table 2 – 2019 Utah OL Presentations**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Presentations Given</b>	<b>Presentation Recipients</b>
Pre-Kindergarten/Headstart	1	8
K-8 Grade	17	607
High School	8	111
Drivers Education	565	17,075
School Bus Drivers	67	955
Commercial Buses	0	0
Professional Drivers	11	84
Law Enforcement	0	0
Emergency Responders	5	40
Miscellaneous General Adult	113	1,092
<b>Totals</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>19,972</b>

Source: Utah Operation Lifesaver, July 2020.

In 2019, the Utah OL booth was represented 31 times reaching approximately 31,527 people. Special thanks to all of our presenters and safety partners for the success we had in 2019!

## Utah OL Booth Update

Thanks to all those who participated in the booths sharing the Utah Operation Lifesaver rail safety messages. Utah Operation Lifesaver attended the following events during the first quarter of 2020.

- The Ophir, Tintic & Western Model Train Show at Thanksgiving Point in Lehi on January 17 and 18, 2020.
- The Hostlers Model Railroad Festival at Ogden Union Station in Ogden on March 6, 7, and 8, 2020.
- The Big Outdoors Expo at UCCU Center at Utah Valley University in Orem on March 13 and 14, 2020.

Due to COVID-19, there have not been any public events held in the second quarter where the Utah Operation Lifesaver booth has been present. It is anticipated that most events for the year have been cancelled or postponed. We do anticipate attending any public events for the remainder of the year due to the current pandemic.

## 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. Utah’s rank in 2019 for suicide by train was tied for 10th worst. 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	179	19	6	0
2012	270	43	2	1
2013	307	26	2	0
2014	274	34	3	0
2015	317	29	9	0
2016	268	32	5	2
2017	270	41	1	0
2018	272	35	4	1
2019	200	23	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,357</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>4</b>

Source: Federal Railroad Administration, July 2020.

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.

