

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 grade crossings and trespassing on railroad tracks.

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Executive Director's Message – 2020 Utah Operation Lifesaver Annual Summary

Another year has passed, and Utah OL has summarized the data for 2020. While statistics do not tell the entire story, data provides good information for us to evaluate what happened in 2020. Fortunately, 2020 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 2020 for highway-rail grade crossing incidents was 13th best and for trespass incidents Utah was tied for 16th 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 – 2020 Crossing and Trespass Statistics

	Crossing Collisions	Crossing Fatalities	Crossing Injuries	Trespass Fatalities	Trespass Injuries
National	1,891	201	677	536	555
Utah	13	3	12	2	7

Source: Federal Railroad Administration, July 2021.

The numbers below show the impact COVID-19 has had on our educational outreach for rail safety education in Utah. 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. Please remember to report presentations and booths by the end of each month. Last year was a transition year for reporting to the new Rail Safety Alliance website.

Table 2 – 2020 Utah OL Presentations

Category	Presentations Given	Presentation Recipients
Pre-Kindergarten/8 th Grade	4	79
General High School	0	0
Driver's Education	153	4,443
School Bus Drivers	23	213
First Responders/Law Enforcement	0	0
General Adult	1	4
Professional Drivers	7	71
Totals	188	4,810

Source: Utah Operation Lifesaver, July 2021.

In 2020, the Utah OL booth was represented only **seven** times reaching approximately **5,700** people. Most public events were cancelled due to COVID-19. Special thanks to all of our volunteers and safety partners for the success we had in 2020!

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 and second quarters of 2021.

- The Kanab Train Show at Kanab Center Ballroom in Kanab on March 5 and 6, 2021.
- The Utah Trucking Association Management Conference at the Dixie Convention Center in St. George on May 13, 2021.
- The Lehi Round-Up Rodeo in Lehi on June 24, 25, and 26, 2021.



Photo: Booth from the Kanab Train Show.

In Memory of Beverley Thrall

It is with sorrow that we announce the passing of the longest serving Utah OL volunteer and friend Bev Thrall. Bev was a dedicated volunteer for Utah OL for 45 years! She was the first volunteer when the program was established in Utah in 1976. Bev has volunteered countless of hours greeting the public while working in the Utah Operation Lifesaver booth at model train shows, city and school safety fairs, state fairs, and other public arenas. Bev served as Utah OL's materials coordinator and on the State Advisory Council. Bev was Utah's only recipient of the F. Tom Roberts Memorial Award recognizing the National Outstanding Operation Lifesaver Volunteer in 2000! Bev also was awarded the State Coordinator's Award of Excellence in 2010. We will all miss Bev – a wonderful person and the Grandmother of Utah Operation Lifesaver.

Assistant Director Walt Webster volunteered with Bev for many years as well. He said the following, "I have a lot of great memories with Bev. Because of all the time we spent together, her grand kids (when they were small) were convinced I was her best friend. I took that as a special compliment. I will miss her."

Below is Bev's obituary.

Bev's Obituary



Beverley Jean Tedesco Thrall, 1932-2021.

Beverley Jean Tedesco Thrall, lifelong resident of Salt Lake City Utah, born on June 17, 1932, to Nino and Cleopatra (Polad) Tedesco passed away on June 16, 2021, at the age of 88. She left this world surrounded by close family who will miss her dearly. Beverley was preceded in death by her twin sister Betty Dean Walker, her husband Melvin F. Thrall, her daughter Denise Cordova, and her stepson Michael.

Beverley was a selfless person who cared deeply for those around her. She spent her entire life taking care of those she loved. Even as a child she helped take care of her younger sisters. In 1948 she married Melvin F. Thrall and help raise his two children Michael (Mickey) Thrall and Barbra (Susie) Larson. Bev also had three children of her own, Helen (Judy) Draper, Terri Lee Fontaine and Denise Lynne Cordova. She helped to raise her niece Erin Thrall Brown whose mother passed away at a young age. Bev also raised her two granddaughters Shyloe and Michelle whose

mother also passed away at a young age. With all of the girls in her genealogy she only had one boy, her grandson Dillon Fontaine who she also helped to raise and always remained very close with. Bev also cared about all of Melvin's grandkids and thought of them as her own.

Besides taking care of her family Beverley was also an active member of the community. When her daughters were young, she joined the PTA and helped with many school events and carnivals. The children just loved her sloppy joes. Bev was great with children and always wanted to be a schoolteacher. While she never officially held that title, she did volunteer a lot of her time as a member of Utah Operation Lifesaver, teaching children about train safety at many of the schools and events throughout the state. She was active in charitable organizations such as the Moose and Eagles. Bev was also an active member of the 49ers and Catholic church. She was the first female president of the Union Pacific Employees club and received many awards and honors. Beverley worked for Cream-O-Weber and also ran the Union Pacific company store.

Outside of work Bev loved to travel. She got to travel the world on trains, planes, and ships, along with her family. She also liked to take short trips to Wendover whenever she could and loved to join bowling leagues.

Later in life, after Melvin had passed away, she met Louie Girado who she fell in love with. Bev and Louie cared deeply for each other and were as happy as any two people could be. They were huge Utah Jazz Fans and were season ticket holders. They also had a lot of fun going to plays and other events. Bev and Louie both deserve the happiness that they brought each other later in life.

Beverley will be greatly missed by all those whose lives she touched.

More Booth Photos

Below are photos of the Utah OL booth at the Utah Trucking Association Management Conference and the Lehi Round-Up Rodeo.

