

This is the official newsletter of **Operation Lifesaver Utah**, a highway-railroad grade crossing safety program and a railroad trespass prevention program. To unsubscribe to this newsletter, please contact Vern Keeslar at olut@digis.net or call 801-310-1035.

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State Coordinator's Message – The 2007 Safety Train Event of Operation Lifesaver Utah and Union Pacific

The annual Operation Lifesaver Utah and Union Pacific Railroad Safety Train Event took place on October 8 through 13, 2007. The Union Pacific train had two engines, one power car, one private car, two passenger cars, and one dome car.

On Monday the train was in Nephi in the morning and Provo in the afternoon. Later that evening, a static display of the vintage railroad equipment was on display at the Provo Amtrak Station. Visitors came and walked through the



railroad cars and received the Operation Lifesaver safety message. Children received bags of fun items and adults received OL cross buck pins.

Tuesday was largely an enforcement day in American Fork, Lehi, South Jordan, and Sandy. Many citations were issued for going through the flashing lights or going around the lowered gates.

Wednesday provided for an exciting day as student leadership from West High School in Salt Lake joined us for a ride to Clearfield and back. The students were given the opportunity to learn more about safety and interview Walt Webster (OL presenter and Union Pacific engineer). He shared with them facts about trains as students from the West High School journalism program (newspaper and TV) asked him questions and took photos. Later that evening in South Salt Lake City, the Union Pacific vintage equipment was on display again for public viewing.

More enforcement was conducted on Thursday through the communities of Salt Lake City, North Salt Lake City, and Woods Cross. Again, citations were issued for various traffic violations.

Friday included a special event for presenters, safety partners, and elected officials as the Safety Train traveled across the causeway of the Great Salt Lake.



The television program “At Your Leisure” as found on ABC4 Utah was in attendance to film for their Sunday program. The photo below shows Roger “B” and Steve Heumann taking some shots on the causeway.



The weeklong educational effort ended with having justice court judges on Saturday.



During the week, law enforcement officers gave 27 crossing citations, four crossing warnings, and 13 trespasser citations. At least 21 crossing violators got away.

Special thanks to the Union Pacific Railroad and to all the volunteers, law enforcement, safety partners, and media that made the 2007 Safety Train event successful!

Next OL Utah Quarterly Meeting

The next Operation Lifesaver Utah quarterly meeting will meet on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 for the final quarterly meeting of the year. This meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Salt Lake Community College Miller Campus located at 9750 South 300 West, Sandy, Utah. This meeting is for all presenters and safety partners that would like to be updated about the happenings of our state program. Presenters should be attending at least one of these meetings per year, along with doing four presentations a year. Please plan on attending this important training to set goals for next year and visit with other presenters and safety partners. **Because lunch will be served, please RSVP with Jennifer Keeslar at 801-473-1444 by November 30, 2007.**

OL Utah Gets New Website

Operation Lifesaver Utah has just released a brand new website for our program. Go to www.olut.usu.edu for access to the new site. Please provide any comments to Vern Keeslar. Special thanks to the Morgan Frame and the Utah Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Center for their help in designing, updating, and hosting the website for us. The Utah LTAP Center is a great safety partner!

Area Coordinators Contact Information

The Area Coordinators and their phone numbers are listed below. The Area Coordinators can schedule presentations and support presenters with materials or other Operation Lifesaver needs.

Area

1. Kathy Bessinger – (435) 279-8130 home
 - Box Elder, Cache, and Rich Counties
2. Walt Webster – (801) 295-5633 home
 - Davis, Morgan, and Weber Counties
3. Terri Fontaine – (801) 596-1889 home
 - Salt Lake, Summit, and Tooele Counties
4. Paul Hawker – (801) 798-1718 home
 - Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah, Utah, and Wasatch Counties
5. Garry Bringhurst – (435) 835-3431 home
 - Carbon, Emery, Grand, Juab, Millard, Sanpete, and Sevier Counties
6. Vacant – Need Volunteer
 - Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, Piute, San Juan, Washington, and Wayne Counties