

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 – Rail Safety Week a Huge Success!

The first U.S. Rail Safety Week (RSW), September 24-30, 2017 was very successful. The goal of Rail Safety Week was to raise awareness for pedestrians and drivers on keeping themselves safe around railroad tracks and at highway-rail grade crossings.

“We are grateful for the positive response from our rail safety partners across Utah as many activities for Rail Safety Week were carried out,” said OL Utah State Coordinator Vern Keeslar.” The following list includes the events for Rail Safety Week in Utah.

### Monday, September 25, 2017

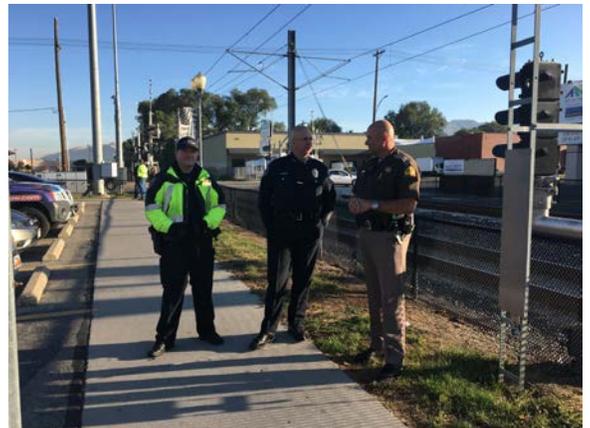
Governor Gary R. Herbert provided a Declaration for Utah Rail Safety Week. (See last page for declaration.)

UDOT Message Monday on Variable Message Signs over the Interstates provided the See Tracks? Think Trains! Rail Safety Week message.



### Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Operation Lifesaver Utah joined with Amtrak, the Utah Highway Patrol, the Utah Transit Authority Police Department, and the Provo Police Department for "Operation Clear Track," a one-day, three-hour surge to raise awareness and enforce railroad grade crossing and trespassing laws. Operation Clear Track was one of the largest simultaneous railroad safety law enforcement operation ever attempted in the U.S. Coordinated law



enforcement efforts were at crossings in South Salt Lake City, West Valley City, and Provo City. Approximately 20 officers participated handing out 1,500 rail safety flyers, pulling over 20 drivers and three pedestrians, which resulted in 21 warnings, one ticket, and one arrest.



### Wednesday, September 27, 2017

Operation Lifesaver Utah distributed magnets for State Board of Education Driver Education vehicles statewide that says "Do Not Enter Railroad Crossing While Red Lights Are Flashing" Utah Code 41-6A-1203. The first driver education cars to receive the magnets was at Skyridge High School in Lehi. Troy Nordick, Driver Education Specialist with the State Board of Education spoke to a Skyridge High School driver's education class.



A rail safety booth was present at the Layton Safety Fair that evening. Working the booth was Lamount Worthy and Tim Rhoades of UTA.

### Thursday, September 28, 2017

Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) presenter Vic Saunders gave a rail safety presentation to the Syracuse High School driver education classes. KSL's Lori Prichard was there and presented Vic Saunders with a KSL High 5 Award. Congratulations Vic!

Vic became an authorized volunteer presenter in 2013 and quickly became a valuable volunteer. He has given more than 340 one-hour rail safety presentations to 8,200 new drivers in northern Utah. Vic Saunders was awarded Safety Partner Presenter of the Year for 2014, 2015, and 2016! He also volunteers in the community by working the rail safety booths at safety fairs, model railroad shows, and conferences. Vic's day job of Communications Manager for the UDOT Region 1 in Ogden keeps him very busy, but he is always available to teach new drivers about the dangers that can exist at railroad crossings.



Thursday was transit safety day and UTA gave out "See Tracks? Think Train!" water bottles, key chains, ink pens, pamphlets and candy at the North Temple FrontRunner Station and the Central Point TRAX Station. Also, UTA provided rail safety pamphlets throughout the system. Pictured left are Lamount Worthy, Tim Rhoades, Amy Cornell-Titcomb, and Sheldon Shaw.



Friday, September 29, 2017



On Friday, the Alpine School District demonstrated the school bus “Five Alive Drill” showing how school bus drivers safely traverse railroad crossings. Rex Brimhall, Assistant Director of Transportation drove the school bus and showed how drivers go through their safety drill at each and every railroad crossing.



Friday was also “Red Out for Rail Safety” at the home varsity football games at the five high schools. Each school received five Rail Safety Week posters, five Red Out for Rail Safety posters, rail safety public service announcements, and 50 mini footballs with the Operation Lifesaver logo.

- Northridge High School
- Woods Cross High School
- West High School
- American Fork High
- Spanish Fork High School



### September 24-30, 2017

- Social media Facebook posts about the “Emergency Notification Signs” daily targeting the Salt Lake City radius.
- Operation Lifesaver Utah Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram daily posts.
- Grade crossing and trespass prevention “See Track? Think Train!” radio public service announcements statewide.
- Letter to the editor about Rail Safety Week by Terri Fontaine published in the Deseret News on September 22, 2017.

### September 15, 2017 to November 15, 2017

- Radio public service announcements by Governor Gary Herbert, Lt. Governor Spencer Cox, University of Utah Head Football Coach Kyle Whittingham, Utah State University Head Football Coach Matt Wells, and Broadcaster Craig Bolerjack.

Photo on left from Rail Safety Week shows UTA’s Dave Goeres being interviewed by TV stations Fox 13 and ABC 4 Utah. Photo on right shows UTA’s TRAX Station on North Temple in orange lighting for Rail Safety Week.





Gary Richard Herbert

Governor

## Declaration

Whereas, the State of Utah is a leader in supporting highway-rail grade crossing and pedestrian safety programs;

Whereas, 129 highway-grade crossing crashes throughout the past ten years resulted in 25 persons killed and another 42 injured in the state of Utah;

Whereas, pedestrian/railroad trespass incidents on railroad property throughout the past ten years resulted in 19 persons killed and another 19 injured in the State of Utah;

Whereas, collisions between trains and motor vehicles or pedestrians could have been prevented by increased public awareness of the dangers at crossings and around railroad property and the appropriate safety laws;

Whereas, Operation Lifesaver is the foremost public information and education program dedicated to preventing highway-rail grade crossing crashes and pedestrian/railroad trespass incidents; and,

Whereas, we encourage Utah residents to participate in activities to reduce crossing crashes and pedestrian/railroad trespass incidents during this week and throughout the year;

Now, therefore, I, Gary R. Herbert, Governor of the great State of Utah, do hereby declare September 24-30, 2017, as

Utah Rail Safety Week

Gary R. Herbert  
Governor