

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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**Utah Operation Lifesaver**

**Website**

[www.utahoperationlifesaver.org](http://www.utahoperationlifesaver.org)

**Rail Safety Alliance**

**Website**

[www.railsafetyalliance.org](http://www.railsafetyalliance.org)

## **Executive Director's Message – New Online Rail Safety Presentation**

Utah Operation Lifesaver has teamed up with the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), Zero Fatalities, and the Utah Board of Education to bring a rail safety presentation online. We have had this idea for a few years, but with COVID-19 impacting in-person presentations an online course has been developed. This course can be taken by anyone in the world, but we are targeting new drivers in Utah, Nevada, and Idaho.

The course is free and takes about one hour to complete. At the end of the course, provided that a completion of 80 percent pass on the quiz, each student will receive a certificate of completion. This online course took about a year to develop. Students in high schools that choose not to have in-person presentations or high schools that are located in areas of the state where we do not have volunteers will be able to now have this online alternative.

The links below will take you to the website at:

[www.zerofatalities.com/driver-instructors/](http://www.zerofatalities.com/driver-instructors/)

or

[Driver Instructors - Zero Fatalities](http://www.zerofatalities.com/driver-instructors/)

This is what the website looks like after scrolling down the page.

### OPERATION LIFESAVER PRESENTATION

Every railroad crossing should be taken seriously. Learn how to stay safe when driving near railroad tracks. Watch the Utah Operation Lifesaver driver education presentation and answer the questions provided. Students must receive 80% or better for each module quiz. If you receive a score below 80%, you will need to retake the quiz. Upon completion, each student will receive a certificate of completion.

[View the Operation Lifesaver Modules](#)



## **Congratulations to Idaho Operation Lifesaver on 50 Years of Rail Safety Education and Awareness**

Rail Safety Alliance along with its partners Nevada Operation Lifesaver and Utah Operation Lifesaver congratulates Idaho Operation Lifesaver on 50 year of rail safety education and awareness! Because of Idaho Operation Lifesaver's foresight, rail safety programs are now organized

across the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Australia, and several European countries. It all started in the State of Idaho!

In 1972 when Idaho Operation Lifesaver started there were more than 12,000 collisions at highway-rail grade crossings annually in the U.S. Concerned by these numbers, the Idaho governor, Idaho peace officers, and Union Pacific Railroad organized a six-week education and awareness safety campaign titled "Operation Lifesaver." Idaho's grade crossing fatalities decreased by 43 percent and the program quickly spread to other states including Utah in 1976.

"It's our honor to celebrate and congratulate Idaho Operation Lifesaver on 50 years of outreach to the general public on rail safety education and awareness. No other rail safety organization has been around longer," says Vern Keeslar, Executive Director of Utah Operation Lifesaver.

"We appreciate the example and creativity of Idaho Operation Lifesaver. They were the first to establish a rail safety and awareness program for the general public and their efforts have spread throughout North America and many other countries," stated Rich Gent, Executive Director of Nevada Operation Lifesaver.

## 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 third and fourth quarters of 2021.

- The Brigham Young University's Police Safety Awareness Fair at Brigham Square on the BYU campus on September 16, 2021.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Get Ready Fair at Davis Hospital and Medical Center in Layton on September 18, 2021.
- The Intermountain Train Expo at the Legacy Events Center in Farmington on November 5, 6, and 7, 2021.



Photo of Cyndie Kirk volunteering at the Utah Operation Lifesaver booth during the Intermountain Train Expo at the Legacy Event Center in Farmington on November 6, 2021. Special thanks to all those that worked the booth including Cyndie Kirk, Walt Webster, Wade Wilde, and Vern Keeslar.

## Report all 2021 Presentations and Special Events

Please report all 2021 presentations and special events by Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Totals for Volunteer of the Year Award and Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award will be tallied from the reports. If you have any questions about reporting on the Rail Safety Alliance website, please contact me. The website is [www.railsafetyalliance.org](http://www.railsafetyalliance.org)