



What is Operation Lifesaver?

Operation Lifesaver is a non-profit, international continuing public education program first established in 1972 to end collisions, deaths, and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and along railroad rights-of-way. Operation Lifesaver has three main components: Education, Engineering, and Enforcement.

Education: Operation Lifesaver educates the public about highway-rail grade crossing and pedestrian safety. Education includes not only our free public presentations, but also public service announcements, films, brochures, and related materials.

Engineering: Operation Lifesaver endorses continuous safety improvements at highway-rail grade crossings through design and technology.

Enforcement: Operation Lifesaver encourages an active enforcement effort. If existing laws governing trespassing are not enforced, people will continue to be hit, seriously injured, or even killed on railroad property and along railroad rights-of-way.

Operation Lifesaver programs are sponsored cooperatively by federal, state, and local government agencies; highway safety organizations, and the nation's railroads. For more information, contact Vern Keeslar, State Coordinator, at 801-310-1035 or visit www.oli.org.

Statistics and Tips

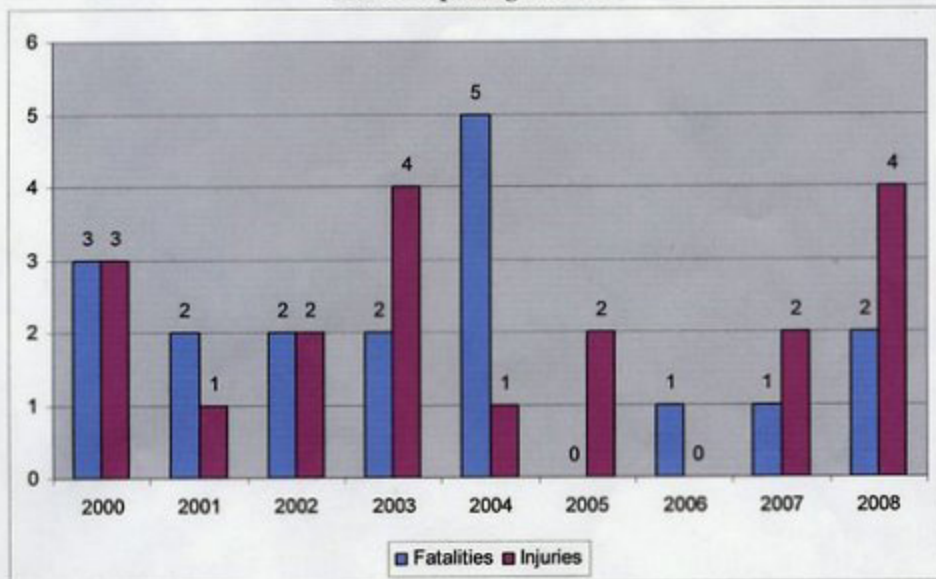
- Be aware that trains cannot stop quickly. Even if the locomotive engineer sees you, a freight train moving at 55 miles per hour, or an eight-car passenger train moving at 79 miles per hour, can take a mile or more to stop once the emergency brakes are applied. That's 18 football fields!
- There are approximately 200,000 miles of railroad track in the United States.*
- There are approximately 252,000 public, private, and pedestrian at-grade highway-rail crossings in the United States. (A total of 152,500 are public crossings.)**
- In the United States of America, approximately every two hours either a vehicle or a pedestrian is struck by a train. That's 12 incidents each day!
- A motorist is 20 times more likely to die in a crash involving a train than in a collision involving another motor vehicle.
- More people die in highway-rail grade crossing crashes in the United States each year than in all commercial and general aviation crashes combined.
- Nearly 50 percent of vehicle/train collisions occur at crossings with active warning devices (gates, lights, bells).
- Most crashes occur within 25 miles of the motorist's home.
- Nearly half of all highway-rail crashes occur when the train is traveling less than 30 mph.
- Railroad tracks, trestles, yards, and equipment are private property. Walking or playing on them is illegal – trespassers are subject to arrest and fines. Too often the penalty is death.

*2003 Federal Railroad Administration statistics – January 2005

**Federal Railroad Administration, Railroad Safety Statistics Annual Report, 2002, Table 9-2



Utah Trespassing Statistics



Attached are the last four newsletters that show the activities of Operation Lifesaver Utah for the past year. Please contact me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Vern Kessler
State Coordinator

Enclosure



Nationally, there were 286 fatalities and 913 injuries in 2,373 highway-rail grade crossing incidents in 2008. In Utah, there were zero fatalities and two injuries in 12 highway-rail grade crossing incidents. For trespassing incidents, nationally there were 458 fatalities and 426 injuries in 2008. In Utah, there were two fatalities and four injuries during trespass incidents.

Utah Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Statistics

