

This is the official newsletter of **Operation Lifesaver Utah**, a highway/railroad grade crossing safety program and a railroad trespass prevention program.

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**Look...  
Listen...  
and Live!**

## State Coordinator's Message

As you all know, Operation Lifesaver was started in 1972 in Idaho by two Union Pacific Railroad employees. Now Operation Lifesaver is found in 49 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Mexico, and several European countries. The Operation Lifesaver program in Utah was started in 1976. We are celebrating 30 years of sharing our safety message with the residents of Utah. There are many people that have contributed to the Operation Lifesaver program in Utah. However, there is one that I would like to take a moment to single out – his name is Jerry Hardesty.

Jerry Hardesty has worked for the Union Pacific Railroad for 25 years and has served as Manager of Public Safety for the Western United States for 12 years. He has served on 12 Operation Lifesaver Boards of Directors and his territory has covered as many as 12 states. His territory now is five states including Utah. He is a presenter, presenter trainer, regional trainer and serves on the National Operation Lifesaver Program Development Council. There he chairs the Education and Training Committee. Jerry helped create the Operation Lifesaver Utah Board of Directors in 1995 and has served as Chair of the Board since its creation – nearly 12 years. Jerry has mentored several state coordinators (including me) and has trained countless presenters. It would be very difficult to measure and list everything that Jerry has done for our program in Utah and Nationally.



Photo of Pam and Jerry Hardesty at the Operation Lifesaver Utah family picnic.

Jerry is originally from Kansas and is a second generation railroader as his dad worked for the Missouri Pacific Railroad. Jerry has been married to his wife Pam for 41 years. Jerry and Pam have three children (two sons and one daughter) and six grandchildren (five girls and one boy). Jerry and Pam's oldest son is a corridor manager for the Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha (now three generation railroaders). Thank you Jerry Hardesty for all of your leadership, knowledge, mentoring, friendship, professionalism, and your contribution to the Operation Lifesaver program in Utah and Nationally.

## New Area Coordinator

I want to thank Toby Bath for serving as Area Coordinator during the last two years for Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah, Utah, and Wasatch Counties (area four). He has coordinated all of the presentations and OL Utah events in area four and has served us very well. Thanks Toby!

The very busy Paul Hawker has volunteered to fill in until another volunteer comes forward. Paul has served as Assistant State Coordinator and Area Coordinator previously. He is a presenter and a presenter trainer. Please contact Paul for any coordination efforts in area four. Thanks Paul for your continued support.

## Area Coordinator Needed

Area six is still in need of a new Area Coordinator. Please contact Vern Keeslar at (801) 310-1035 if you are interested in coordinating the OL Utah events in Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, Piute, San Juan, Washington, and Wayne Counties.

## New Presenters Trained

Kathy Bessinger and Paul Hawker, both presenter trainers, trained four new presenters on Tuesday, October 3, 2006.



From left to right Guy Horn, Kathy Bessinger, Samantha Rickard, Paul Hawker, Andy Cheng, and Eric Gustafson.

## 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