

2010 ANNUAL STATUS REPORT



Connecticut Operation Lifesaver 2010 Annual Report

Welcome! Operation Lifesaver saves lives by educating Americans about the hazards surrounding rail property and trains. Our goal is to prevent collisions between trains and motor vehicles. We also work to prevent trespassing incidents that lead to serious injury or death.

Our work remains important: the face of the grief stricken mother whose son was killed because he chose to play on train tracks; the anguish of victims, their families, and train crews who have witnessed tragedy on or near the rails. We take heart in the fact that Operation Lifesaver is a program that saves lives; we're making a difference in communities across the U.S.

We are pleased to announce that Mr. James Peay assumed the position of State Coordinator of Connecticut Operation Lifesaver (CTOL), effective November 13, 2009. Mr. Peay has been employed by Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT), for over 30 years and has served in various departments including Geological Research & Design, Rail Construction Operations and the Division of Highway Safety.

In 1996, Mr. Peay joined the Operation Lifesaver team, becoming the Assistant State Coordinator for Connecticut. He began as a Presenter/Trainer and as his interest and passion in the program grew, he became a Level II Certified Trainer; then an Instructor for Grade Crossing Collision Investigation (GCCCI); a Rail Regulatory Agent for the Department of Transportation; and finally the State Coordinator.

Each year we review our performance and 2010 was a positive year for CTOL. This year alone, more than 25 dedicated volunteers have brought rail safety messages to over 500,000 Connecticut citizens and New England Regional 1 partners. Please join me in congratulating our staff, volunteers and our summer interns for their tremendous efforts in making our communities a safer place in which to live and work.

We invite you to take a close look at the activities and the safety-related results of our efforts and welcome any feedback or ideas on how to reinforce the public view of railway safety.

Make safety your priority.

Trespassing upon railroad tracks is illegal and often tragic!

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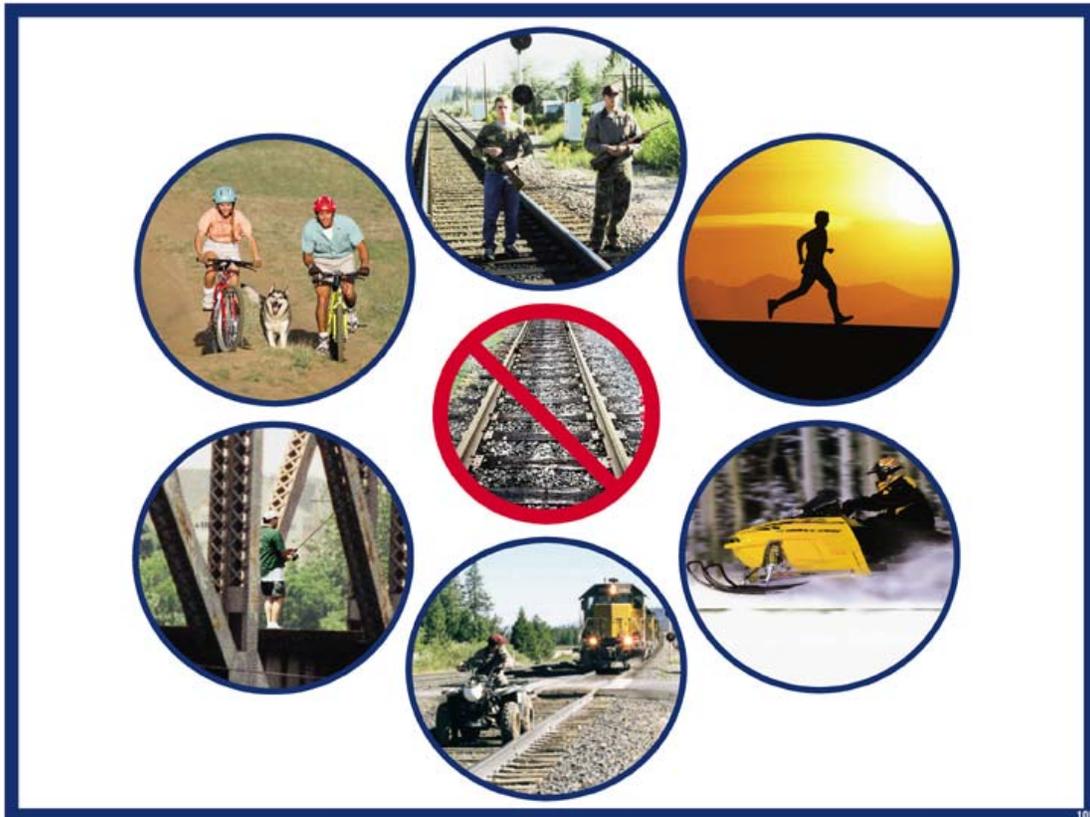
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I. Mission Statement and Purpose

To end tragic collisions, deaths and injuries at highway/rail grade crossings and on railroad right-of-way.

Every year in Connecticut scores of collisions and trespassing incidents occur at highway/railway crossings and railway tracks resulting in deaths or serious injuries.

We deliver presentations to schools, youth clubs, mature driver associations, junior high school students and high school students, college/university, adult drivers, professional drivers, school bus drivers, emergency responders, law enforcement officers, community groups and attend special events. We work with the rail industry, state government, police, unions, the media, other organizations and the public to spread the word.



II. History

Operation Lifesaver has a proud and unique 30-year history. Railway companies and government agencies have long been concerned about the needless loss of life and rail related injuries. As a step toward reducing these incidents, in 1996 railway companies joined forces with federal and state government in Connecticut to build lasting and aggressive programs to improve railway-related safety. The result was Operation Lifesaver.

Beginning in 1996 presenters were trained and dispatched to the public to spread the word of safety first - ***Look, Listen & Live***. Presenters were also trained to let the public know that railway property is private property and the public is expected to remain off the premises of railway property. The motto for this was ***Stay Off, Stay Away & Stay Alive***. Railway train movement can occur at anytime, on any track and in any direction; the motto here becoming ***Train Time is Anytime***.

More recently Operation Lifesaver has been taking advantage of web-based technologies, making resources available via their main website www.oli.org and adding a website for kids www.oli.org/education-resources/for-kids/. In addition, new programs for new drivers are offered.

For three decades Operation Lifesaver has been an educational and an engineering tool, keeping up with the latest technologies being used at the public and private at-grade crossings. They have also been an enforcement tool used to support and educate professional drivers throughout the country about local, state and federal regulations that govern the operation of motor vehicles.

Operation Lifesaver is an international non-profit public awareness program dedicated to ending collisions, fatalities and injuries at highway – rail grade crossings and railroad property. Operation Lifesaver’s goal is to accomplish this through its promotion of the 3 E’s:



Operation Lifesaver started in Idaho in 1972 after the average highway-rail grade crossing fatalities nationwide escalated to 1,200 annually. A one-time six-week public awareness campaign called Operation Lifesaver, now Operation Lifesaver, Inc., was first initiated through the combined efforts of Ed Schafer and Sam Grayson of the Union Pacific railroad, the Idaho Peace Officers and Governor Cecil Andrus' office.

During the first year of the new campaign Idaho's crossing-related fatalities dropped by 43%. The next year, the concept spread to Nebraska, where the reduction in collisions was 26%. When Kansas and Georgia experienced similar success the following year, U.S. Senator Kay Hutchison (who was the Vice Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board) encouraged the nation's transportation community to take the program nationwide and by 1986, independent Operation Lifesaver programs had begun in the other 49 continental United States

In an effort to assist in coordinating the mission, and the message of activities among the independent state programs a national Operation Lifesaver program was established under the auspices of the National Safety Council in 1978. In 1986, the national program was released from the NSC and incorporated as a non-profit organization. The founding sponsors of Operation Lifesaver, Inc. were the Association of American Railroads, the National Railway Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) and the Railway Progress Institute, all of which continue to be represented on Operation Lifesaver, Inc's. eleven member Board of Directors.

The Board first secured funding from the Federal Railway Administration (FRA) and then partnered with the Federal Highway Administration. The Board established Operation Lifesaver, Inc. program Development Council, a thirty-three member advisory council. Operation Lifesaver, Inc. opened a national office to serve as support and referral center for the independent state programs and act as a liaison to the federal government, other safety organizations and the media.

Today, Operation Lifesaver programs are supported enthusiastically by a wide variety of partners, including the U.S. Department of Transportation, the national Transportation Safety Board, the American Automobile Association, the American Trucking Association, the American Public Transportation, the National Safety Council, the school transportation industry, law enforcement organizations, the Chiefs of Police Association, federal, state and local governments, and the national railroad suppliers.

III. Committee Members

Connecticut General Statute's 13b-376

Composition Statutory Members

Appointee

- Commissioner of Transportation James A. Peay (Chairman)
- Commissioner of Education Ronald C. Harris, Esquire
- Commissioner of Public Safety Sergeant Frank C. Sawicki
- Representative of Civic Organization (appointed by the Senate President Pro Tempore) Alex P. Goff
- Representative of Civic Organization (appointed by the House Minority Leader) David Peters
- Representative of Railroad Industry (appointed by the Speaker of the House) Russell G. St. John
- Representative of Parent Teacher Association (appointed by the Senate Majority Leader) vacant
- Representative of Local Law Enforcement Agency (appointed by the House Majority Leader) Officer Valerie Sousa, Amtrak
- Representative of Local Government Official (by the Senate Minority Leader) vacant

Connecticut General Statute 13b-376 states: (in part) “(The Connecticut Operation Lifesaver) Committee shall consist of the Commissioner of Transportation or his designee, the Commissioner of Education or his designee, and the Commissioner of Public Safety or his designee, and six members appointed as follows: Two representatives of civic organizations, one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate and one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, a representative of the railroad industry appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, a representative of a parent teacher association appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, a representative of a local law enforcement agency appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives and a local government official appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.”

IV. Presenters

Darren Bennett	Lori Nieves
Howard Brown	Patricia M. Osmer
Matthew Brush	Barbara Peters
Officer Edward Conte	David Peters
Karla Divirgilio	Officer Thomas Pycrz
Lou Frangella, FRA	Francis Rossano
Jae Fontanella	Joseph Russo
Alex Goff	Sergeant Frank Sawicki
Stephen D. Gould	Gregory Sawicki
Sergeant Brian Hakey	Heather Smith
Ralph Harris	Valeria Sousa, Amtrak
Donald Konen	Russell St. John
Officer Warren Lawrence, FRA	Susan Thompson
Max Miller	Richard Towle, FRA
Thomas B. Miskell	Cliff Tucker, Amtrak
Richard Neff, Amtrak	Mark Witek



V. Operation Lifesaver Awareness Day



The event opened with the reading of the **Official Statement and Governor’s Proclamation** proclaiming Friday, May 14, 2010, as Operation Lifesaver Day.

Mr. Dennis King, Manager of Community Advocacy, ConnDOT, performed the opening ceremony, followed by guest speaker Mr. Richard Towle, Federal Railroad Administration, a long supporter of the CTOL Program, both in training and in following the mission components of rail safety enforcement.

Guest speaker Mr. Eugene Colonese, Rail Administrator, ConnDOT, stated: “I am happy to represent the Commissioner today at Connecticut’s Operation Lifesaver Day in New London. Connecticut Operation Lifesaver program began back in 1991. Operation Lifesaver is a national nonprofit organization and we are proud that Connecticut joined with 49 other states to establish this program.”

Guest speaker, Ms. Penny Parsekian, CEO, New London Main Street Inc., provided valuable comments on future operations of Shore Line services, including increased ridership and expansion of the Northeast corridor ridership service.

Special guest included: Mr. Gus Gramelis, Superintendent, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Ms. Jean Taylor Stimolo, Executive Director, Rideworks and Mr. Barrie E. Husle, certified Ferrier (blacksmith). Mr. Husle explained past and present dangers of horse riders he knew who trespassed on railroad right of ways. He also told of close calls he has seen on the rails.



Mr. James Redeker, Bureau Chief, Public Transportation, ConnDOT, was honored to present Plainfield High School students and Principal James Worth with the CTOL Community Service award. The school suffered the loss of one of their fellow students in a rail related incident this past year.

Operation Lifesaver Committee member, Sgt. Frank Sawicki of the Department of Public Safety also presented a new National Operation Lifesaver Video for driver's distraction, which has been viewed at stations across the state.

The CTOL interactive van was also on display depicting what the train engineer views on the approach to railroad crossings. Trespassing on railroad property is illegal. The program and enforcement message is, "Stay Off, Stay Away and Stay Alive."

Enhancing public awareness, especially among students, is the cornerstone of the program. Rail safety presentations, including a demonstration at the highway-grade crossing showing the activation of electronics, provide awareness and examples of pedestrian distraction that can lead to injuries or fatalities.

Education remains a critical aspect to the State's Operation Lifesaver program community outreach effort. The opportunity to build a partnership with Connecticut's PTA organizations under the guidance of Vice President Mr. Donald Rosomer has been a true benefit to the organization. Mr. Rosomer continues to recognize the program and the three "E's" of our program: Education, Engineering and Enforcement. The department appreciates every opportunity to partner with local educators.



The musical group **The Electric Trains** honored all present with fantastic music “drawn from and inspired by America’s great train tradition songs” using Country, Bluegrass, Blues and Rock.

VI. Media Outreach

Operation Lifesaver Films New Safety PSA with New Orleans Saints Kicker

Things that happen in an instant can make all the difference, says Garrett Hartley . . .

NEW ORLEANS, LA, July 28, 2010 – Garrett Hartley, the kicker for the New Orleans Saints whose last-minute, 40-yard field goal kick sent his team to the 2010 Super Bowl, emphasizes the importance of making safe decisions quickly at railroad crossings in a new public service announcement filmed here. Rail safety nonprofit Operation Lifesaver and Hartley teamed up on the project. Website: www.oli.org

“When you come to a railroad crossing, the decisions you make can mean the difference between life – or death,” says Helen Sramek, President of Operation Lifesaver, Inc. “Garrett Hartley is well-known to fans along the Gulf Coast and nationwide, and we are grateful to him for reminding drivers and pedestrians that it only takes an instant for lives to change.”

The 30-second public service announcement, which includes National Football League footage from Hartley’s historic field goal, will air in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Oklahoma (Hartley is an Oklahoma graduate) through a grant program funded by the Federal Railroad Administration. Website www.fra.dot.gov

In the last decade more than 13,000 people have been injured or killed while in highway-rail grade-crossing collisions, according to Federal Railroad Administration statistics.

Operation Lifesaver’s Distraction PSA Win Tellys for People’s Choice, Editing, Public Service

Operation Lifesaver PSA, the *Distracted Pedestrian*, which focuses on transit safety, was the winner of two additional Telly Awards, silver for editing and a bronze for public service. The *Distracted Driver – Serious* PSA, featuring two females texting, talking and distracted by a song on the radio, also won a public service Bronze Telly Award.

The PSAs can also be viewed on the Operation Lifesaver website: www.oli.org/pass

“These new PSA are winning raves from rail safety advocates across the nation, and we are proud to have received this recognition from the public and the Telly Awards,” says Helen Sramek, president of Operation Lifesaver, Inc. “Through YouTube, we can remind millions safety partners and friends in the Facebook community, further increasing their reach.”

All three spots were produced by Henninger Media Services in Arlington, Virginia. The *Distracted Pedestrian* PSA was filmed on the Baltimore light rail line (MTA) near the Camden Yards station. The *Distracted Driver* spots were filmed in Thurmont, Maryland.

Spanish Version of Professional Driver Training Video

Good News Production has completed a Spanish version of the Professional Driver Training Video. At the March meeting of the National Advisory Council, it was agreed that this is a MUST training tool. I'm pleased to report that it is now ready for distribution. Operation Lifesaver vendors will be provided a master copy so that they can have copies ready for sale.

"Stay Alive When You Drive," released in April 2009, is Operation Lifesaver's newest training video for professional drivers. It has been distributed widely within the Operation Lifesaver community, and many of our presenters have been using it in presentations. Six scenarios illustrate critical decisions professional drivers are required to make to ensure their safety. Real truck drivers and instructors were involved in developing this training video.

Rather than use subtitles or "dubbing" the narration in Spanish, we were able to successfully switch out the English professional driver narrator and substitute a Spanish narrator. The new video can be quickly incorporated into driver education classes for Spanish speaking drivers.

We have also been working on a professional driver training module that will be posted on our website soon. A professional driver for Wal-Mart with over 4 million safe miles of driving was part of the team developing the material.

As you know, truck drivers are one of Operation Lifesaver's target audiences. Last year Operation Lifesaver reached 33,700 professional drivers in over 2,000 presentations. We can now do an even better job in reaching Spanish-speaking professional drivers.

Radio Competition Names Operation Lifesaver Radio PSA Best of the Year

WASHINGTON, DC, September 29 – A 60-second radio commercial for Operation Lifesaver's Common Sense trespass prevention campaign created to promote train safety was named the best Public Service Announcement (PSA) at the 2010 Radio Mercury Awards, held in New York September 27. Website: www.commonsenseuseit.com. The PSA was created by Baltimore-based Exit10 and produced by Annapolis-based Flying Brick Radio. You can listen to the PSA and email it to friends at the Radio Mercury Awards website: <http://bit.ly/bPj176>.

"By winning this prestigious award, the Common Sense PSA will increase its use and enhance safety awareness among 18-34 year olds, who now make up one-third of rail trespass casualties," said Helen Sramek, president, Operation Lifesaver.

"It's always nice to have work recognized, but it's especially satisfying to win an award for a public service announcement. It means that our work was judged as being very effective at saving lives. It's hard to find something more important than that," said Jonathan Helfman, Exit10 creative director.

VII. Statistics

Incident Overview January - November, 2010

Total incidents: 124 **Number of fatal incidents: 4**
Total fatalities: 4 **Total nonfatal conditions: 94**

Total incidents are the sum of train incidents (26), highway-rail incidents (3) and other incident (95).

Total Train Incidents: 26

Total fatalities: 0
Collisions: 2
Derailments: 7
Other incidents: 17

Number of fatal train incidents: 0
Total nonfatal conditions: 0

Primary causes:

Human factors: 5
Equipment defects: 4
Miscellaneous causes: 4

Track defects: 13
Signal defects: 0

Train incidents represent 20% of all reported events.
Trespassing incidents represent 80% of all reported events.
Number of train incidents involving passenger trains: 21

A train incident is an event involving rail equipment that results in monetary damage to the equipment and track above a certain threshold. Lading, clearing costs, environmental damage is not included.

Highway-Rail Incidents:

Incidents: 3
Total fatalities: 0
Total nonfatal conditions: 1
Number of fatal crossing incidents: 0

Trespassing Incidents (not at crossings)
Total fatalities: 4

Total Crossings: 636

Public Crossings: 367 (with gates: 106, other activated crossings: 148, with passive warnings: 113).
Private crossings: 269

Highway-rail and trespassing incidents account for 80% of all fatalities.

A highway-rail incident is any impact between a rail and a highway user at a crossing site, regardless of severity. Includes motor vehicles and other highway/roadway/sidewalk users at both public and private crossings.

Other Incidents: 95

Total fatalities: 4

Total nonfatal conditions: 93

Number of fatal other incidents: 4

Trespassers 4

Other incidents account for 76% of all incidents

Other incidents include events other than train or crossing incidents, which caused a death or nonfatal condition to any person. Most fatalities in this category are to trespassers. Other events include such activities as getting on/off equipment. Doing maintenance work, throwing switches, setting handbrakes, stumbling, tripping, etc.

Trespassing Fatality Locations:

- Amtrak's Hartford-Springfield Line, north of Capitol Ave. undergrade bridge at milepost 32.7.
- Metro-North's Danbury branch, Commerce Street crossing at milepost 1.33 (suicide).
- Amtrak's Hartford-Springfield line, Willard Ave. at milepost 31.7 (suicide).
- Amtrak's Hartford-Springfield line, near Fish Fry St. at milepost 39 (trespassing).

Did You Know...?

- Nearly 1,000 people die each year by being on or too close to railroad tracks.
- Most collisions occur with trains traveling under **25 mph**.
- Most collisions occur within **25 miles** of the driver's home.
- Approximately **60%** of all collisions occur in daylight hours.
- At **55 mph**, it may take a train up to **1 mile to 1½ miles** to stop in an emergency.
- Nearly **34%** of all collisions occur at crossings equipped with active warning devices.
- **23%** of all collisions occur when the vehicle runs into the side of the train.
- You are **60 times** more likely to die in a collision with a train than in a collision involving another motor vehicle.

VIII. Rail Safety Emergency Responder Training



We count on firefighters, emergency medical service personnel, and other first responders to come to our assistance whenever an emergency situation arises. But how do *they* stay safe when their work requires them to be in an unfamiliar and potentially dangerous environment?

The Rail Safety Emergency Responders (RSER) course is a flagship program offered by Operation Lifesaver. The program teaches first responders the critical elements of being safe when they work around the unique dangers inherent in the railroad environment.

The various course topics include response pre-planning considerations; safe response to the scene; overview of on-scene hazards, including electrical, mechanical, chemical, and others; equipment and rolling stock identification; an overview of hazardous materials; how to stop a train in an emergency; and interpreting train documentation.

The course is four hours in duration, but optional hands-on field exercises can be used to supplement the course, where facilities permit. These practical exercises help to reinforce the classroom content and allow the students to work around rail equipment in a controlled environment.

There is no charge for this specialized instruction. The course is taught by certified Operation Lifesaver RSER instructors.

The GCCI training course is designed by Operation Lifesaver for law enforcement officials. Police officers are no strangers to unusual situations. But there is one environment that most of them are not familiar with: the railroad. The course teaches law enforcement officers how to perform their duties safely whenever they are required to work near the hazards posed by the railroad equipment and railroad property. The skills taught in the GCCI course augment the investigative techniques that police officers already possess. The course, developed in conjunction with and endorsed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, instructs officers how to safely and effectively manage investigations involving trains and motor vehicles, as well as trains and pedestrians.

Topics in the course include elements of highway-rail grade crossing collisions; signs, signals, and laws; responding safely to an incident; trespassing and other crimes; data collection at the scene; and state crash reporting forms.

The course is available in 4-hour, 8-hour, and 16-hour versions. The longer courses include hands-on field exercises which reinforce the concepts taught in the classroom portion of the training. The courses are taught by certified Operation Lifesaver GCCI instructors. There is no charge for the courses.

IX. Challenges and Objectives

Challenges

One of the Connecticut Department of Transportation's infrastructure initiatives is designing and implementing a rapid transit project that will create a rapid transit busway system connecting the cities of New Britain and Hartford. The projected project completion date is 2014.

Additionally, Connecticut has worked with Massachusetts, Vermont and Amtrak to develop a "Regional Vision" plan for passenger rail service which includes the Inland Route service from New York City to New Haven to Springfield to Boston and passenger service from New Haven to western Massachusetts, Brattleboro and Burlington, VT and on to Montreal along Amtrak's Vermonter service corridor. The New Haven to Springfield service is just one element of this larger regional plan but it is the backbone of the regional vision and will support both services

Adjacent to the active and inactive Railroad Lines

The busway system when completed will provide an alternate way to travel the New Britain to Hartford corridor. The 9.4 mile long corridor, encompassing up to (12) stops, will travel through four municipalities (New Britain, West Hartford, Newington and Hartford) and will run adjacent to active railroad lines for approximately five miles.

Unique Traffic Engineering Challenges

The parallel juxtaposition of rail, vehicular and pedestrian traffic will create unique traffic and engineering challenges that will require equally unique and innovative solutions, furthermore, due to this juxtaposition, the public will be brought into close proximity with the danger inherent at the railroad grade crossing and within the railroad Right of Way. Operation Lifesaver is the recommended vehicle used across the nation in terms of educating the public about highway rail grade crossing safety and the major concerns of trespassing on railroad property.

Connecticut Operation Lifesaver: Part of the Solution

Recognizing the goals of the Connecticut State Rail Plan, the Amtrak Regional Vision Plan and the busway's close proximity to approximately five (5) miles of railroad right of way, highway and highway at-grade crossings, the need for CTOL safety education and information is of paramount importance. The challenge will be informing both the busway's projected daily ridership and the general population, with a special focus on the area's residential youth.

Objectives

Operation Lifesaver is ready to meet the challenges as outlined in the four year plan that follows; this plan covers calendar years 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014.

Re-institute GCCI Course, RSER Trainers & Recruitment Bilingual professional

Operation Lifesaver recommends re-instituting CTOL's GCCI course as a major component to the public safety initiative. The course will provide safety and investigative information for local, state and railroad police officers preparing the local law enforcement community to safely respond to rail related incidents and emergencies. CTOL proposes training 100 officers within the targeted areas per year over the next four years, for a total of 400 officers.

CTOL GCCI course instructors have in the past trained hundreds of state, local and railroad police officers on familiarization with rail collision investigation, as well as rail trespass prevention. The course has served as a model for other states throughout the country by offering college accreditation for Connecticut's four-day course as well as offering some of the most knowledgeable certified instructors in the country.

Presenter/Trainer Certification Training Classes

Educating the public associated with the busway project and recommended Transit links, especially the projected approximately 60,000 school children residing in the targeted areas (New Britain, Newington, West Hartford, and Hartford), and Connecticut State Rail Plan 2010-2014 Building Mobility and Prosperity Plan, will require increased staff of Operation Lifesaver certified volunteers.

Each phase of the plan encompasses recruiting and certification training for volunteers from among the busway and rail expansion projects associated communities, as well as area institutions, including but not limited to local schools/educational system, law enforcement providers EMT's and all CDL professional drivers.

In order to meet the demand for Operation Lifesaver presentations, Operation Lifesaver recommends recruiting, training and seeking certification for an additional one hundred (100) new volunteer presenters. Demographics have shown a large Spanish speaking population along the busway line.

We believe it will be necessary to recruit a credible number of new volunteers who are bi-lingual and who can communicate verbally, in English and Spanish, in order to meet the plan's goal of delivering Operation Lifesaver presentations and literature to the targeted audiences, as well as accommodate the area's Spanish speaking population.

Operation Lifesaver recommends, optimally providing certification training to an average of 25 to 30 presenters per plan year. Operation Lifesaver presenter training guidelines dictate a minimum of ten (10) trainees in each class per training class and requires that certified level II Trainers teach the training course.



Education Presentation, Literature, materials and supplies

Standardized Operation Lifesaver presentations are a large part of the educational portion of the Connecticut Operation Lifesaver program and are delivered by Operation Lifesaver trained and certified Level 1 Presenters. Each Operation Lifesaver presentation is specifically geared toward its audience whether they are school children in grades kindergarten through second grade, Jr. High or High School students, school bus drivers, or Student Driver Education Centers. Presenter disseminate rail safety literature and support materials to audiences at these presentations and at safety information booths (PTA/PTO, Safe Kids Connecticut, Youth After School Programs and other education specific conventions along with state and local health and safety fairs, etc.)

Outreach / Public Service Announcements

Public Service Announcements (PSA) are a vital form of media outreach that is necessary to reach the diverse targeted population and has been proven to be a major component of the rail safety educational process

CTOL Volunteer Team Required Motivation and Appreciation

Program volunteers, even though highly self-motivated, require team support. CTOL seasonal shirts and caps visually unify the team, making the volunteers readily recognizable to the public.



Re-Institute Use of the Operation Lifesaver Van

Operation Lifesaver recommends enhancing the use of the CTOL mobile classroom program. The goal is to utilize the CTOL van at special events where, as an effective billboard, it can provide a field classroom for delivering on-demand presentations to all small groups.

Special Events

An integral part of the overall safety education process, statewide, is Operation Lifesaver safety information booths stationed at special events such as large state and local fairs. Operation Lifesaver volunteers disseminate safety information literature and brochures. Participation at these special events provides an outreach forum where the program can reach a large and diverse demographic grouping within a condensed period of time. In addition, these events provide a forum for volunteer recruitment and soliciting presentation requests.

Operation Lifesaver recommends Connecticut Operation Lifesaver participate at fifteen (15) Special events in targeted areas per year for a total of sixty (60) over the four year period.

The CTOL program received an invitation to participate in the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts to support other Region 1 partners in their railway safety initiative.

Connecticut Day was Wednesday September 22, 2010. The special daily scheduled events included Connecticut's Operation Lifesaver Van in the parade with approximately 250,000 in attendance. Many of the attendees throughout the fair received Operation Lifesaver's safety presentation message. There were 6 or more Operation Lifesaver Presenters providing presentations throughout the day (between the hours of 8:00 am and 11:00 pm) for all present.



Student Participation: Field Survey Demonstration Education, Engineering and Enforcement

As a form of outreach, schools, club/civic organizations and students partner with Operation Lifesaver certified Presenter and Trainer Resources. A number of training classes will be conducted throughout the year and student feedback will be encouraged.

Contributing Partners

As part of this proposal, CTOL through its statutory committee will attempt to solicit in-kind donations from the following contributing partner entities:

- Connecticut's Operating Railroad
- Connecticut's Transportation Associates
- Connecticut Rail Association
- National Operation Lifesaver, Inc.
- Connecticut Department of Transportation
- Connecticut Department of Public Safety
- Connecticut Department of Education
- Connecticut Department of Social Services
- Connecticut's Municipalities
- New England Regional OLI partners
- Federal –Railroad-Association
- Private in state Insurance Provider's

Meeting the Goals

Enhancing public awareness, especially among students, is the cornerstone of the program. Rail safety presentations, including a demonstration at the highway–grade crossing showing the activation of electronics, provide awareness and examples of pedestrian distraction that can lead to injuries or fatalities.

The implementation of Operation Lifesaver's proposed four year plan will enable and enhance the CTOL program's ability to meet the goals of the Connecticut Department of Transportation, associated with various projects, by addressing the public safety concerns.

Implementation of Operation Lifesaver's four year plan will ensure that CTOL will stand poised and ready to deliver its rail safety information and literature when it is time to educate the at-risk youth and adult busway resident and readership population.

Now is the time to meet the "Challenge!"

X. Summary of Events

At Operation Lifesaver, safety is our priority. We are committed to finding new ways to bring rail safety to 169 municipalities throughout the state. Communities like to engage and help with their efforts to prevent these needless tragedies at railway crossing and railway right-of-ways.

This year, members of Operation Lifesaver made nearly 200 presentations to thousands of young people and their parents, community groups and conference attendee's. CTOL partnered with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) at several events and with FRA and other State OL representatives at Regional Events.

Here are just a few of the 2010 events that kept Operation Lifesaver partners busy and helped to ensure our important safety message remained on the front lines:

January 2010

- Hartford Fire Department Training
- Our Lady of Grace Preschool, Stamford (Grades K-2)
- Safe Kids Meeting, University of CT Health Center, Farmington
- CT Public Transportation Commission Presentation
- Amherst Railway Show (Regional OL Event partnering with FRA)
- Maine Operation Lifesaver Program Regional efforts conference call
- CTOL Membership Meeting
- GNEMSDC Construction Expo

February 2010

- Presenter Training re-certification update/workshop (4 days)
- CT-After School Network, Spring Conference (Ages 5-18)
- Liberty Driver's Education Center, Meriden
- Driver's Education, Wilcox High School, Meriden
- Professional Bus Driver's Training, Enfield

March 2010

- Professional Bus Driver's Training, Enfield
- Marching Band Special Event, Wallingford (3,000 attendees)
- Boy Scouts of America Troop 15, Presentation, Naugatuck
- Westchester Model RR Club Annual Spring Train Meeting
- Railroad Memorabilia Swap Presentation
- New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade (3,000 attendees)
- CTTransit, Hartford Division, Bus Driver Training
- Train Show, RAM Band Presentation, Cheshire
- Injury Prevention Planning Group, Hartford
- School Bus Driver Training (280 drivers)

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- Middle Connecticut After School Network, Inc., Branford (200 participants)
 - CT Eastern Train Show, Windham (300 adult/teens)
 - Girl Scouts Presentation, Enfield

April 2010

- Plainfield High School Presentation
- CTTransit, Hartford Division, Bus Driver Training
- CT PTA, 19th Annual Convention (100 PTA delegates)
- Mark T Sheen High School Presentation, Wallingford
- Marlborough Elementary School Presentation (Grades K-3)
- Liberty Driver's Education Center, Meriden
- Cub Scouts, Clinton
- Wilcox High School, Meriden, Presentation
- Chester Elementary School Presentation (Grades K-3)
- Presenter Trainers Class

May 2010

- Train Show, Willimantic
- Driver Training, Bloomfield Senior Services
- CT Safe Kids Safety Day, Verplank Elementary School, Manchester (Grades 1-5)
- New Haven Union Station National Train Safety day (May 8th)
- Thomas the Tank Engine Event, Essex (4 days, 36,000 attendees)
- CTOL Committee Meeting
- Boys Scouts of America, Troop 27, Woodstock
- Sub-Base New London Summer Health Safety Fair, Groton

June 2010

- CTOL Committee Meeting
- OL Present Recruitment, Groton
- Middletown Health Safety Day (June 18th)
- Mary Fisher Elementary School Presentation, North Grosvenordale

July 2010

- Sail Fest, New London (100,000 attendees)
- North Canaan Housatonic RR Special Event (3 days)

August 2010

- National Night Out, Meriden and Groton
- Boy Scouts of America, National Jamboree, Camp Sunrise (15,000 attendees)

September 2010

- CTOL Committee Meeting
- BIG E – CT Day (250,000 attendees)
- CTTRANSIT Health & Safety Fair, Naugatuck Valley Boys & Girls Club
- Wolcott Fair (5,000 attendees)
- Lebanon Fire Department Training

October 2010

- GNEMSDC Conference (4 days)
- 7th Annual Thompson Community Day
- New Haven Society of Model Train Show
- Monroe Fire Department Training
- 18th Annual Model Train Show, Orange
- Estuary Transit District Bus Driver Training
- Housatonic Model Railway club
- CTOL Committee Meeting

November 2010

- Watertown Fire Department Training
- Firefighter/EMT Training, New London (4 days)
- CT Eastern Railroad Museum Train Show

December 2010

- Plainfield Fire Department Training (4 days)
- CTOL Committee Meeting

XI. Acknowledgement of Appreciation

Mr. Barrie, Certified Ferrier

Mr. Gus Gramelis, Assistant Superintendent Road Operations

Mr. Richard Towle, Federal Railroad Administration

Amtrak

Connecticut Department of Transportation

Connecticut Railroad Association – Member Railroads

Department of Public Safety

URS Corporation, Operation Lifesaver Inc. Committee and CTOL Program Certified Presenters

New London, Supreme Pizza

Mr. Robert Moore and Miss Joanna Juskowiak, Connecticut Department of Transportation

CTOL wishes to express its gratitude to our first time summer interns who spent 6 weeks with the program. We look forward to the participation and expansion of the intern program in the years to come.



***"USE YOUR COMMON SENSE"
STAY OFF! STAY AWAY! STAY ALIVE!
LOOK! LISTEN! LIVE!***