



Coordinator's Corner



This quarter I'm going to be a little more serious, a little wordier, and discuss different ways to handle a couple of populations.

When we work booths, we don't know who is going to approach and I've noticed depending on the event and location so what happens when you work a booth with a population you don't normally see?

The largest group I talked with were people struggling with mental health illness. With this population I don't discuss incidents just a friendly reminder to stay away from railroad tracks, then I change the subject to this cool new number that they can call if they are in a mental health crisis. Be that anxiety, depression, drug overdose, whatever they deem a crisis 988 is there.

24/7/365 someone nationwide will answer the phone. I let them know in some cases the police will be called if the situation requires it but the mental health professionals that answer try to avoid police involvement.

I also share this info with teens after they have heard my rail safety message, because high school is hard and almost every teenager goes through some form of mental crisis in their four years.

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New Look for School Bus Driver Interactive eLearning

WASHINGTON, DC, July 27, 2023 – Every school day, 480,000 yellow school buses travel the nation's roads. With approximately 140,000 miles of railroad tracks and 212,000 highway-railroad grade crossings across the U.S., school bus drivers need to know how to make informed decisions when driving near tracks and trains. Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI), the nonprofit rail safety education and awareness organization, is sharing its updated School Bus Driver eLearning program helping school bus drivers understand how to make safe choices when navigating railroad crossings along their routes.

The School Bus Driver eLearning program offers an interactive online learning experience for school bus drivers, putting users at the controls of a school bus full of students in several scenarios where they are faced with important safety decisions. With its fresh makeover, the School Bus Driver eLearning program offers an immersive and dynamic online learning experience. Drivers can access the eLearning at oli.org/schoolbusdriver.

"In the simulated driving environment of our new School Bus Driver interactive eLearning program, drivers are exposed to several driving scenarios that demand quick thinking and critical decision-making," says OLI Executive Director Rachel Maleh. "This virtual learning environment allows school bus drivers to learn from mistakes without real-world consequences, while mastering essential safety signs, signals, and best practices. We want all school bus drivers to know about this FREE dynamic rail safety education tool and invite them to test their knowledge. Working together, we can stop track tragedies."

Every three hours in the U.S., a person or vehicle is hit by a train. OLI offers [additional safety resources](#) for school bus drivers, including brochures, posters, videos and more. Operation Lifesaver Authorized Volunteers, or OLAVs, offer free rail safety presentations to a wide range of audiences across the U.S. – including school bus drivers, teachers and K-12 students.



OLI Unveils Exciting New Look for ProDriver Challenge Interactive eLearning

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WASHINGTON, DC, July 10, 2023 – Startling statistics from the Federal Railroad Administration reveal that approximately one in four railroad crossing collisions in the U.S. involve tractor-trailer trucks and other vehicles requiring a Commercial Driver License (CDL). To address this, Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI), the nonprofit public safety education and awareness organization, has updated its [ProDriver Challenge](#) eLearning program helping drivers prepare to make safe choices when navigating railroad crossings along their routes.

The ProDriver Challenge offers an interactive online learning experience for CDL drivers, putting users at the controls of a virtual dashboard where they make important safety decisions as the driver of a box truck or 18-wheeler. With its fresh makeover, the ProDriver Challenge offers an immersive and dynamic online learning experience. Drivers can access the eLearning at oli.org/prodriver.

“In the simulated driving environment of the ProDriver Challenge, drivers are exposed to several driving scenarios that demand quick thinking and critical decision-making,” says OLI Executive Director Rachel Maleh. “This virtual learning environment allows drivers to learn from mistakes without real-world consequences, while mastering essential safety signs, signals and best practices. We want all professional drivers to know about this FREE dynamic rail safety education tool and invite them to take the ProDriver Challenge. Working together, we can stop track tragedies.”

With railroads operating approximately 140,000 route miles across the country and 212,000 highway-railroad grade crossings in the U.S., making safe choices around tracks and trains is critical for professional drivers. Every three hours in the U.S., a person or vehicle is hit by a train.

OLI offers [additional safety resources for professional drivers](#), including brochures, posters, videos and educational Public Service Announcements sharing the rail safety message. Operation Lifesaver Authorized Volunteers, or OLAVs, offer free rail safety presentations to a wide range of audiences across the U.S. – including professional drivers.

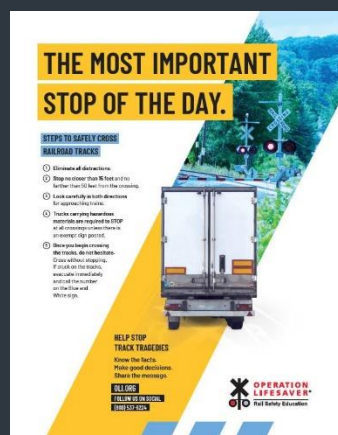
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So, why do I use Operation Lifesaver time on 988 information. Simple, because suicide by train is a very real thing. In Kansas about 70% of our trespass incidents are people lying on the tracks. Though they are not counted as suicides. Why? Because the County Coroners make the final call on cause of death and due to the stigma around death by suicide coroners won't list it as a cause without firm proof.

By spreading the 988 message we help reduce suicidal ideation, we help people get the help they need when they are in crisis, and we also help our conductors by reducing the number of incidents that make them remember with distant expressions.

Please, if you have not done so and you are comfortable discussing the function of 988 when needed, [order your materials from SAMHSA](#). It's free, as is shipping. It may take six months to arrive, and the website might be a little clunky to maneuver but if we can help save lives and potentially lower incidents, I believe it's worth adding to our toolkit. After all, saving lives we will never know we saved, is what we do.

Yours in Safety,
Jessica Mays





Operation Clear Track Sign Up

Operation Clear Track (OCT), an important part of RSW, is the largest in-person railroad safety law enforcement operation in the United States spearheaded by OLI and Amtrak. **All first responders, including law enforcement, firefighters, Emergency Medical Services, Offices of Emergency Management and more** are encouraged to join us during Rail Safety Week – sharing the rail safety message in their communities. **It is important for tracking purposes that participants sign up ([OCT sign-up form](#)).**

- **In person events** (typically held by law enforcement) will be held **Tuesday, September 19, 2023**, with a rain date of Wednesday, September 20.
- **Virtual participants are asked to** share the rail safety message on social media platforms and web sites throughout RSW.

Amtrak has already sent emails to law enforcement and first responder partners across the nation requesting they sign up. **There is one [OCT sign-up form](#)** for both law enforcement and first responders. Again, it is important for tracking purposes that participants sign up.

Organizations that sign up before Sept 1 will receive a social content calendar, media advisory template and a box of safety cards (as long as supplies last).

OCT 2023 – SIGN-UP FORM LINK AND REGISTRANTS LIST

Operation Clear Track [2023 sign-up form online](#)

Kansas Incidents 2022 FINAL

Trespassing Incidents
5 injuries

Crossings Incidents
29
Injuries: 7
Fatality: 4

Total Incidents
34
Fatalities: 4
Injuries: 12

2021

Trespassing Incidents
14
Fatalities: 11
Injuries: 3

Crossings Incidents
35
Fatalities: 5
Injuries: 10

Total Incidents
49
Fatalities: 16
Injuries: 12

**Nothing released
for 2023 yet.**

Three New Transit Pledges

Publicly Releasing Later This Summer

Look for 3 new transit safety pledges releasing publicly this summer designed specifically for [adults](#) and [elementary ages](#) as well as [Pre-K ages](#).

UP COMING EVENTS

August 10th, 1:00 - 3:00: KS OL Board & Committee Meeting, Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, Perkins Room, 201 [1515 SW 10th Ave, Topeka, KS 66604](#)

September 10-16: National Truck Driver Appreciation Week

September 18-24: Rail Safety Week [for more information](#)

September 19: Operation Clear Track

November 7-8: OLI Coach Training in Denver

November 9th, 11:00 - 3:00: KS OL Board & Committee Meeting (lunch provided), Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, Perkins Room, 201 [1515 SW 10th Ave, Topeka, KS 66604](#)



Rail Safety Week Schedule

September 18 - 24

Unifying Theme: "STOP TRACK TRAGEDIES"

OLAV Materials

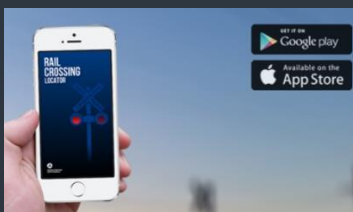
Everyone should have received new materials in the mail from OLI. As a reminder, all old presentation materials will expire on June 30th and should have been disposed of. If you did not receive your new OLAV manual, please let me know. You can download the new slide presentation and you can find OLAV materials at

OLI.org/community/



Rail Crossing Locator App

The app allows users to locate crossings by U.S. DOT Crossing ID number, address, or geo-location. [Link to FRA for more info.](#)



DAY/DATE	THEME	AUDIENCES
Monday, 9/18	#STOPTrackTragedies	News Media, Government Officials, OLI Partners, General Public
Tuesday, 9/19	Operation Clear Track: Law Enforcement, First Responder Partnerships	Law Enforcement and First Responders
Wednesday, 9/20	Crossing Safety	General Public, Mature Drivers, Shift Workers, Professional Drivers, School Bus Drivers, New Drivers, Outdoor Enthusiasts, People Experiencing Homelessness, Transit Users, Farmers, Risk Takers, Those Working Near Tracks
Thursday, 9/21	Transit Safety Thursday & Professional Driver Safety	Transit and Commuter Riders, Professional Drivers, School Bus Drivers
Friday, 9/22	Volunteer to #STOPTrackTragedies & Wear Red for Rail Safety	All Audiences
Saturday, 9/23	Trespass Prevention	General Public, Pedestrians, Cyclists, Joggers, Outdoor Enthusiasts, College Students, People Experiencing Homelessness, Risk Takers, Those Working Near Tracks
Sunday, 9/24	No Photo/Video/Selfie is Worth the Risk	Photographers (Professional and Amateur), Social Media Influencers

Keep up to date on Rail Safety Week News Here!

<https://oli.org/about-us/public-awareness-campaigns/rail-safety-week>

KS OL OUT

& ABOUT:



New drivers at Schuetz Driving School, Olathe

Adrian at Buckle Up Driving School, Lawrence



New professional drivers at White Line CDL Training



New Drivers at Leavenworth High School

