



**NEWSLETTER from your  
State Coordinator, Shel Senek  
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**PRESENTER NEWS**

Many changes are occurring with Operation Lifesaver. Most notably is the upcoming Presenter refresher training. The National Operation Lifesaver staff and key persons from around the country have worked on revising the presentation visuals and Presenter manual. The refresher training is expected to be completed prior to December 1, 2009. Training locations will be scheduled in different quadrants of Ohio. Active Presenters are invited to attend a session of their choosing.

It is mandatory to attend at least one of the scheduled training sessions to maintain Operation Lifesaver Presenter Certification. Upon completing the training, Presenters will be issued a new manual and a CD with the new visuals. The old manual is slated for retirement.

**STATISTICS**

Ohio is doing quite well when it comes to reducing grade crossing incidents with trains. During 2007 Ohio logged 112 crashes compared to 81 crashes in 2008. However, fatalities rose from **8** during 2007 to **13** in 2008. **68%** of the crashes with trains occurred at locations where the active warning devices were in operation at the time of the crash. Not a good statistic for Ohio of more than two out of three collisions occurring when the traffic control devices are in operation.

## TRESPASSING

Trespassing on railroad property is and has been a growing concern. Trespasser incidents with trains exceed motor vehicle driver incidents with trains. This trend has continued for more than ten years. It's extremely important that Presenters include in all their presentations information about safe and legal behavior as a pedestrian around trains and tracks with encouragement about not becoming a trespasser.

Many persons believe it's Okay to cross the tracks as long as the act is done safely and no train is coming. This statement is only true if the act is done at an approved public crossing and gates if equipped and lights if equipped are not activated. The bottom line, crossing the tracks or being on railroad rights-of-way other than an approved public crossing is a criminal offense. It's akin to someone coming into your home uninvited. Moreover, the trespasser risks injury on this terrain as well as the danger of being struck by a train. Use common sense. Don't place yourself in a dangerous and illegal position.



We know that trains do not stop quickly and at 55 mph can take a mile or more to stop. Trains are difficult to hear because they run on seamless rails. Your shortcut may be the final cut. Common sense says, Stay off, Stay Away, and Stay Alive!