



Sunflower State Signal

Official Publication of Kansas Operation Lifesaver, Inc.

Coordinator's Corner



Welcome to 2021! As you can see KS OL and OLI have been busy with new ways to reach the public with our message. Please look at the new OLI "For Kids" page and check out the new materials on the OLI materials page. While you are surfing the web look at the new KS OL webpage. It is simpler and a work in progress but hopefully you can find what you need.

Even more OLI materials will be developed in 2021. Aaron has been asked to join a national committee working on agriculture safety materials. You can look for those hopefully by the end of the year.

We will also be starting a new section in the Sunflower Signal to post ongoing Kansas FRA stats. These numbers are not complete until roughly April of the following year because incidents are not always easy to investigate, but as numbers become available from FRA, we will update them for your use.

Please feel free to contact me anytime at jmays@kscapitol.com



this issue

News from OLI **P.2**

Campaigns/Initiatives **P.2 & 3**

OLAV Information **P.3**

NEWS FROM OLI

WASHINGTON, DC, January 29, 2021 – [Operation Lifesaver Inc., \(OLI\)](#), the national rail safety non-profit, today unveils a free suite of engaging, colorful new informational materials to help keep people safe around railroad tracks and trains. The new materials encompass informational brochures, posters, flyers and safety quizzes with vital information for a variety of audiences to include drivers, pedestrians, photographers, outdoor enthusiasts, students, farmers and first responders as well as professional truck and bus drivers. Materials contain lifesaving information on railroad signs and signals and what to do in emergency situations along with actionable information geared to key audiences.

"Operation Lifesaver's new collection of collateral materials, available free of charge in English and Spanish on our website, is designed to be eye-catching while

OLI releases suite of engaging, informative new materials

providing lifesaving messages and reinforcing safe behaviors around railroad tracks and trains," says OLI Executive Director Rachel Maleh. "We urge everyone interested in rail safety to read and share these new materials to make a difference and save lives."

Materials are available to the public and can be found by contacting [Operation Lifesaver State Coordinators](#) as well as online at oli.org/materials by typing "foundation piece" in the search box. Spanish materials will be available March 1. Schools, driving schools, community groups and others can always request a free virtual or in-person rail safety presentation at oli.org/request-presentation and find other safety information at www.oli.org.

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NEWS FROM OLI

WASHINGTON, DC, January 25, 2021 – [Operation Lifesaver Inc.](#), (OLI), the national rail safety non-profit, today releases its first interactive online educational game to help kids make safe choices around railroad tracks and trains. Designed for kids ages 7-10, the **Train Safety Savvy** game is free to play and covers general safety messages, railroad signs and signals and trespass prevention information.

After accessing the game from OLI's "[For Kids](#)" page, players can choose one of four different characters and take virtual train trips to different destinations around the U.S. Players help their character complete the trip by answering questions and responding to interactive challenges.

OLI Releases Train Safety Savvy, an Online Interactive Game for Kids

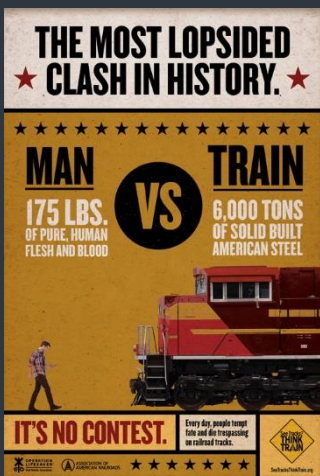
"About every three hours in the United States, a person or vehicle is hit by a train. Our new online **Train Safety Savvy** game is designed to engage children while providing lifesaving messages and reinforcing safe behaviors around railroad tracks and trains that they can share with their siblings, friends and parents," said OLI Education Manager Moriah Whiteman.

Train Safety Savvy is part of a group of free virtual education tools developed for children aged 3-13 and may be found at <https://oli.org/info/kids>.

KS OL RUNS BILLBOARD CAMPAIGN

From December 25th to March 5th KS OL had Man vs Train and Car vs Train digital billboards in 13 locations on 17 different screens throughout Wichita, Hutchinson, Newton, Augusta, and Sedgwick County. It is estimated that the signs were seen by drivers and pedestrians roughly 5,610,000 times.

KS OL has already helped and informed many in 2021. (also see pg 3)



I-135 exit 31, Newton



Kellogg & Andover, Wichita

CAN U BEAT A **TRAIN** TO SAVE TIME?

Kansas Incidents

2020

Trespassing Incidents

13

Deaths

6

Injuries

7

Crossings Incidents

36

Deaths

10

Injuries

15

Total Incidents

49

Deaths

16

Injuries

22

Average for KS 2020 is 4.08 incidents a month.

Just over one a week.

2019 total of 44 incidents an average of 3.67 per month.



KS OL HOMELESS INITIATIVE



Due to Covid-19 and a lack of events KS OL had a large amount of money left over in its outreach materials budget this year. The Board decided that this money would be best used to reach and help Kansas' transient homeless population.

Working with the Topeka Rescue Mission, Lawrence Community Shelter, and the Wichita Homeless Outreach Taskforce KS OL was able to deliver 1,500 gloves, 1,200 gators/face coverings, and 500 drawstring backpacks right before winter storms hit.

KS OL is hoping to continue this yearly with excess outreach funds.

OLAV ANNOUNCEMENTS

KS OL ADDRESS CHANGE

New Address:

Kansas Operation Lifesaver
6021 SW 29th Street, Suite A #308
Topeka, KS 66614



KS OL WEBSITE CHANGE

Due to price increases with our web provider and OLI now offering free domain hosting KS OL has moved to the Oli provided web page.

Ksoli.org still works but will redirect you to www.oli.org/state/ks. We are currently attempting to reintroduce the years of content that was on the original site. Please bear with us during "construction".

UP COMING EVENTS

March 18th, 2:00 KS OL Board & Committee Meeting, Zoom

May 21st – 23rd: Four State Farm Show, Pittsburg

June 10th, 2:00 KS OL Board & Committee Meeting

July 14th: Coach/RISC Training

September 9th, 2:00 KS OL Board & Committee Meeting

September 20-26th: Rail Safety Week

November 10th, 11:00 KS OL Board & Committee Meeting