



Sunflower State Signal

Official Publication of Kansas Operation Lifesaver, Inc.

Director's Corner



In March, KDOT hosted the KS/MO/NE/IA Highway-Railroad Safety Conference in Olathe. Operation Lifesaver had a great presence at the event. Our national director Rachel Meleh made the trip to Kansas to attend. She gave a presentation on the happenings at the national office. There were also presentations from all four states in attendance. KSOL had a booth for both days of the conference and quite a few attendees stopped by to pick up information and giveaways. I want to specifically thank Adrian Hertog for manning the booth and Mitch Sothers for organizing the event.

As the weather heats up, more special events are happening in Kansas. These events are a great opportunity to educate hundreds of people about rail safety in a short amount of time. If you know of an event in your area, please consider setting up an Operation Lifesaver booth. Special events are a critical component in accomplishing our mission. Supplies can easily be shipped directly to you prior to an event.

Please feel free to contact me anytime at amays@kscapitol.com or on my cell 785-845-2911

Aaron Mays



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FRA Shows Mixed Crossing & Trespass Results for 2018

WASHINGTON, DC, April 10, 2019 — Recently-released U.S. government statistics reveal that railroad grade crossing collisions and rail trespass deaths increased in 2018, according to rail safety education nonprofit [Operation Lifesaver, Inc. \(OLI\)](#). OLI Executive Director **Rachel Maleh** cited preliminary [FRA](#) statistics that show U.S. crossing collisions rose 4.3 percent, crossing deaths remained constant and crossing injuries decreased 2.9 percent from 2017 to 2018. Total casualties (deaths and injuries) from rail trespassing climbed 2.8 percent in 2018; trespass deaths grew 12.0 percent and trespass injuries fell 6.3 percent from their levels in 2017.

“We are troubled to see that these tragic railroad crossing incidents and pedestrian trespass casualties continue to rise,” said Maleh. “Some indicators were better in 2018, however. Crossing deaths were flat from the previous year, while crossing and trespass injuries both dropped. Rail Safety Week, September 22-28 in the U.S. and Canada, will focus attention on these

U.S. railway crossings and trespass deaths increased in 2018

key public safety issues. These statistics show that our efforts to save lives, working with the FRA and safety partners at freight, passenger and commuter railroads, are more important than ever,” she stated.

“It is vitally important that we continue to strengthen efforts among all public, private and government stakeholders to prevent and reduce grade crossing collisions and trespass incidents,” said FRA Administrator **Ronald L. Batory**. “There is still much work to do, but through our longstanding partnership with Operation Lifesaver, Inc., more Americans understand how to safely traverse grade crossings and refrain from risky behavior along rail lines.”

Preliminary Rail Crossing & Trespass Statistics. 2017 vs. 2018

	Crossing Statistics, U.S. Totals			Trespass Statistics, U.S. Totals			
	Collisions	Deaths	Injuries	All Casualties	Deaths	Injuries	
2017	2,122	271	844	2017	1,021	510	511
2018	2,214	270	819	2018	1,050	571	479
% Change	+4.3	0.0	-2.9	% Change	+2.8	+12.0	-6.3

States with the most crossing collisions in 2018 were Texas, California, Indiana, Georgia, Illinois, Florida, Louisiana, Alabama, Ohio and Pennsylvania. States with the most trespasser casualties (deaths and injuries combined) in 2018 were California, Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Georgia, North Carolina and New Jersey.



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Kansas FRA 2018 Results

The FRA totals have been released and Kansas has seen roughly a 39% decrease in trespassing casualties in 2018. Rail Crossing collisions remain the same for 2018 as they were for 2017.

Target counties for KS OL remain relatively the same. However, there has been a decrease in incidents in Wyandotte and Sedgwick counties. KS OL will be adding Sumner County as a target county as it has continued an upward trend of crossing incidents over the last several years.

Kansas sees decrease in rail trespass casualties in 2018

Kansas Incidents 3 year Comparison			
	2016	2017	2018
Trespass Casualties	4	18	11
Rail Crossing Collisions	40	34	34
Total Injuries	18	21	16
Total Fatalities	6	15	14

Target County Incidents by Year			
	2016	2017	2018
Johnson	5	4	6
Wyandotte	1	8	3
Sedgwick	7	8	5
Shawnee	5	1	3
Sumner	3	2	4

Kansas Operation Lifesaver Out & About



Midwest Driving School New Driver Education and Training program in Lawrence.

Spring has sprung & KS OL is Out & About

April & March KS OL Activity	
115 Presentations	1,260 Audience
10 Events	1,396 People Reached
125 Total	2,656 Contacts Total



Upcoming Events

June 6: International Level Crossing Awareness Day <http://www.ilcad.org/>

July 20: Amelia Earhart Festival, Atchison (OLAVs requested)

Be sure to check ksoli.org events page periodically.