



Look, Listen and Live!



April 2010

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FRA Highway-Rail Collision Statistics Show 2009 Decrease in Louisiana Fatalities and Injuries

Operation Lifesaver, the national rail safety education nonprofit, welcomed newly-released federal statistics showing the lowest number of deaths and injuries from highway-rail grade crossing collisions recorded to date. For the first time, the number of crossing collisions nationwide fell below 2,000 to 1,880, a 21.9 % drop from 2008 data.

Louisiana highway-rail incidents dropped by 25.7% from 113 in 2008 to 84 in 2009. Fatalities resulting from these collisions decreased from 15 in 2008 to 11 in 2009, according to the Federal Railroad Administration. Injuries in Louisiana crashes went down from 43 to 35 in 2009.



Louisiana is now ranked sixth in the nation for vehicle-train collisions, sixth for highway-rail fatalities, and fifth for highway-rail injuries.

“As rail safety advocates, we are encouraged to see double-digit drops in the number of highway-rail grade

Louisiana Highway-Rail and Trespass Statistics

	2007	2008	2009
Hwy-Rail Incidents	121	113	84
Hwy-Rail Fatalities	14	15	11
Hwy-Rail Injuries	57	43	35
Trespass Fatalities	8	6	10
Trespass Injuries	11	9	5

crossing collisions, deaths and injuries, as well as pedestrian rail trespass injuries,” said Pat Edwards, Operation Lifesaver Louisiana State Coordinator.

“These new figures show law enforcement efforts, improvements in highway-rail engineering and signal technology, closure of unnecessary crossings, and Operation Lifesaver’s partnership efforts with state, federal and local agencies to raise rail safety awareness are helping to make our communities safer,” said Edwards.

Decreases were also recorded in both vehicular and freight train traffic, which may have contributed to crossing safety gains. Improvements in the

economy could lead to increased traffic, which makes it important to reinforce Operation Lifesaver’s message.

Trespassing Statistics

“Rail trespass incidents, often resulting in injuries and fatalities, continue to pose a challenge,” said Edwards.

Though national trespass numbers declined (injuries dropped from 429 in 2008 to 338 in 2009 and deaths fell in 2009 to 434 from 458 one year earlier), trespass deaths in Louisiana increased from 6 to 10 in 2009. Louisiana trespass injuries decreased from 9 in 2008 to 5 in 2009.



Lt. Col. Ralph Mitchell (left) was recognized at the 2010 Louisiana Transportation Safety Summit for his commitment and support of Operation Lifesaver on the state and national levels. Mitchell recently retired from the Louisiana State Police and is now director of public safety for the Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office. Honoring Mitchell are Rick Campbell (center) of CTC, Inc. and Dan Magri with LA DOTD Highway Safety.

2010 Louisiana Transportation Safety Summit



Some of the Louisiana Operation Lifesaver Presenters and Board Members who attended the Louisiana Transportation Safety Summit are: (left to right) Lawrence Henagan, Dan Magri, Crystal Pichon, Cara Bozeman, Eddie Thibodeaux, Betsey Tramonte, Tracy Ulm, Ralph Mitchell, Pat Edwards, Tommy Schmitt, Julie Lewis, Reuben Turner, and Karla Sibille.



SIGN ME UP!

___ I want to be a certified
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Please visit
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 Complete the online form,
 or print and return the Louisiana
 Presenter Questionnaire Form to the
 State Coordinator as directed.

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Louisiana Operation Lifesaver Presenters Increase Railroad Safety Talks to Diverse Audiences in 2009

In 2009, Louisiana Operation Lifesaver volunteers gave a record number of presentations to promote the railroad safety message.

Operation Lifesaver provides free safety presentations to raise awareness of railroad safety to end collisions, deaths and injuries at places where roadways cross train tracks, and on railroad rights-of-way.

A total of 48,426 people in Louisiana attended more than 1,000 Operation Lifesaver presentations, and more than 32,000 received railroad safety information at special events around the state in 2009.

These 2009 results are almost double the 2008 report, when 21,663 people attended 531 presentations.

There are nearly 100 OL presenters in Louisiana, who work for railroads, law enforcement, government agencies, and in many other professions.

Louisiana has identified the target parishes below based on FRA collision

Louisiana Target Parish 2009 Presentations

Parish	Number Presentations
Allen	0
Bossier	49
Caddo	182
Calcasieu	18
East Baton Rouge	52
Iberville	10
Lafayette	0
Orleans	16
Ouachita	14
Sabine	16
St. Landry	10
Tangipahoa	79

statistics, vehicular and train traffic, and other factors.

Each safety presentation includes information on trespass prevention on railroad tracks, especially important to Louisiana sportsmen and those who live close to railroad tracks.

Louisiana Operation Lifesaver is sponsored cooperatively by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission and the railroads in Louisiana. The Louisiana State Police and local law enforcement agencies work closely with Louisiana Operation Lifesaver to promote railroad safety.



Request a Presentation

To request an Operation Lifesaver presentation for your business, school, church, or organization, please contact Pat Edwards, Louisiana State Coordinator at patricia.edwards@la.gov or 225-921-8381, or visit our website at www.laoperationlifesaver.org.

Presentations can be customized to any age group or profession with targeted materials, brochures and videos.

2009 Presentation Statistics

Category	Presentations	Participants
K thru Grade 8	470	24,966
General High School	100	5,479
Pre-K/Head Start	92	5,228
All Driver Education	186	4,536
School Bus Driver	41	3,585
General Adult	152	3,359
Professional Driver -- Truck	36	992
Professional Driver -- Buses	5	128
Law Enforcement	5	121
EMS/Firefighters	1	32
TOTALS	1,088	48,426

2009 Special Event Statistics

Category	Events	Participants
State/County Fair Exhibit/Booths	33	19,810
Community Safety Blitz	11	6,984
Other (e.g., Safety/Health Fair)	14	1,917
General OL Train	8	1,456
Positive Enforcement Program	5	915
Officer on the Train	27	543
Model Railroad Exhibit	2	280
Other Conference Exhibits	2	125
TOTALS	102	32,030

LA OL Offers Presenter Certification Classes

Each year thousands of people in Louisiana — including school children, driver education students, school bus operators, professional truck drivers, law enforcement, emergency responders, state fair attendees, and members of civic organizations — receive Operation Lifesaver safety messages from nationally-trained and certified Presenters.

Presenters are the lifeblood of Operation Lifesaver. If you want to share our railroad safety message, consider becoming an Operation Lifesaver Presenter.

To become an Operation Lifesaver Presenter, you must attend a two-day class to become certified.

The class teaches effective presentation methods and provides information on railroad safety. Classes are held annually at locations around the state.

Students must successfully complete the Presenter Certification Class by giving a 10-minute condensed Operation Lifesaver Adult Presentation, receiving an acceptable rating from the Presenter Trainer, and passing the post-course test.

The Presenter candidate must then give their first public presentation within 60 days and receive an acceptable rating from the evaluator.

The national office provides each certified Presenter with login identification to submit presentation reports into the database.

All Operation Lifesaver materials, including videos and brochures, are provided free to Presenters to supplement our railroad safety message.

Each Presenter must give a minimum of four presentations a year to maintain active status and certification.



Eight students participated in the December 2009 Presenter Certification Class in Lafayette, Louisiana. Left to right – Instructor Billy Fuller, Gil Stovall, Elisa Foster, Michael Richardson, Cassandra Gardiner, Barbara McCann, Alissha Goodfriend, Chad Monceaux, Donald Craig Lee, and instructor Julie Lewis.



Seven students successfully completed the Operation Lifesaver Presenter Certification Class in Bossier City, Louisiana in January 2010. Left to right – John Byers, William Cook, Furman Gilmore, Jimmy Wayne Scott, Tim Briery, Gary Marlar, and Pete Waguespack.

2010 Presenter Certification Classes

January 27-28	Shreveport
February 23-24	Monroe
March 23-24	New Orleans
April 27-28	Alexandria
May 19-20	Lake Charles
June 22-23	Hammond
July 20-21	Shreveport
August 24-25	Lafayette
September 21-22	Houma
October 26-27	Baton Rouge
November 16-17	New Orleans
December 14-15	Alexandria



Five students participated in the March 2010 Presenter Certification Class in New Orleans, Louisiana. Left to right – Kirk Musselman, Edna Haydon, Burnell Price, instructor Billy Fuller, Jerry Bonds, regional mentor Tommy Schmitt, and Mike Trosclair.

2010 LA OL Presenter Certification Classes



Fifteen students successfully completed the Operation Lifesaver Presenter Certification Class in Monroe, Louisiana in February 2010. Left to right – Greg Hill, Jon Gimber, Sylvester Joseph, Sam Liggin, Megan Talton, Kenny Menyweather, Lisa Quillar, JR Moore, Robert Apperley, Anthony Powell, ShaBrodrick Jones, Jeremy Green, Clint Sistrunk, and John Nelson. Above right -- Vic Harris.



Louisiana State Police Public Information Officers were certified in January 2010 as Operation Lifesaver Presenters. Left to right – Nick Manale, Melissa Matey, Bryan Zeringue, and Stephen Hammons.



National Safety Council, South Louisiana Chapter, instructors participated in a February 2010 Presenter Certification Class in Metairie, Louisiana. Left to right – Donald Coward, Claude Maher, Elizabeth Inbau, and René Nieto.

Look, Listen and Live! is a quarterly publication of Louisiana Operation Lifesaver, Inc. archived at www.laoperationlifesaver.org.

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