



Washington Operation Lifesaver

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Operation Lifesaver, Inc. - National Organization

- Its mission “to end collisions, deaths and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and on railroad property through a nationwide network of volunteers who work to educate people about rail safety.”
- Started in Idaho in 1972, reducing crossing fatalities fell by 43% in one year and it quickly spread to other states.
- In 1986, National OLI was created to support the efforts of the states.
- Provides states with:
 - Logos, images, videos, and materials for spreading consistent message.
 - Standardized training program for authorized volunteers.
 - Competitive grant program
- Issues nationwide press releases and advertising.
- Coordinates Rail Safety Week.

Operation Lifesaver Structure in Washington State

- Washington Operation Lifesaver (WAOL) started in 1984.
- 1996 – became independent 501(c)(3) non-profit.
- The Executive Committee consists of members from UTC, WSP, WSDOT, Amtrak, Sound Transit, BNSF, Union Pacific, OSPI, FRA, Traffic Safety Commission, and two railroad employee unions.
- UTC provides support:
 - WAOL state coordinator & co-coordinator are UTC employees.
 - UTC employees manage supplies, submit OLI grant applications, coordinate volunteers and events, and complete administrative tasks (annual report, internal audit, IRS tax filings, etc.).
 - UTC communications staff maintains social media (Facebook/Twitter).
 - Truck and costs for transporting WAOL exhibit trailer statewide.



WAOL Structure

- WAOL funding
 - Class 1 railroads in WA – BNSF Railway and Union Pacific Railroad.
 - WSDOT – for operations along Amtrak Cascades corridor.
 - Several shortlines.
 - OLI competitive grant program and private fundraising
- In 2019
 - Operating under new OLI partnership agreement.
 - Private grant applications begin (non-agency committee members).
 - Expand social media outreach.
 - Continue to expand innovative ways to deliver safety message such as geo-fencing.

WAOL Activities

- WAOL program – 3 e’s
 - In 1984, crossing incidents = 143 and pedestrian incidents = 32.
 - By 2017, crossing incidents = 29 and pedestrian = 14.
 - Combination of Education, Engineering and Enforcement.
- In 2018:
 - WAOL had 26 active volunteers making 547 presentations. Also spent more than 400 hours at special events. (Outreach to more than 61,000 people).
 - Facebook and Twitter activity made more than 67,000 impressions.
 - Geofencing activity in designated areas around special events delivered impressions to more than 1.9 million people (BNSF grant)

Questions?

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