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# Maine Operation Lifesaver Quarterly Newsletter August 2010



**Thirty-four more Maine driver education instructors** have recently received the free Operation Lifesaver DVD "Look to Live." The video, which was produced and released by Operation Lifesaver's national office a little more than one year ago, is targeted towards driver education students. The most recent video giveaway was at the Maine Driver Education Association conference earlier this year attended by Maine O/L volunteers Harvey Boatman and Norma Griffiths. Another batch of the DVDs were given away at last year's MDEA gathering. The offer for "Look to Live" DVDs for instructors is ongoing.

**Congratulations to the operators** of Maine's newest railroad. The Downeast Scenic Railroad returns trains to the rails in Ellsworth after 26 years and is delighting riders each weekend during the summer with a nine-mile round trip. During the first weekend of service, volunteers Bill Soule and Norma Griffiths were on hand to bring attention to the dangers of trespassing along the new line. Downeast Scenic Vice-President and Maine Operation Lifesaver volunteer Gary Briggs assisted and has also been given an ample supply of coloring books, cardboard engineer hats, and other safety-related giveaways to hand out to young riders.



Youngsters with Operation Lifesaver engineer hats pose with a Downeast Scenic Railroad train.

**Three additional sets of Operation Lifesaver visuals** have recently been purchased.

The sets include 50 poster-size pictures depicting dangerous situations at railroad crossings and along railroad right of way including becoming wedged between vehicles on the tracks and being caught in the middle of a railroad bridge. All certified presenters already have a DVD with all the photos to pick and choose from, but not everyone has a laptop computer or powerpoint projector to present a program. The new laminated visual sets, which have been distributed at various locations around the state, come with a smart carrying case and easel to display the graphics.



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**As was the case last year**, hundreds of law enforcement and emergency responder officials in 2010 are attending Rail Safety for Emergency Responders (RSER) courses. Led by the Federal Railroad Administration's Dick Towle (a native Mainer) and assisted by railroad officials, students get a hands-on feel for railroad equipment so they know what they can turn on/off and where they should go or not go in event of a rail-related emergency. Thanks, too, to the railroads for "lending" their equipment to the RSER program at several locations.



Pan Am Railway's Gordon Riordon with Bucksport firefighters.

**Maine State Troopers will soon be able** to bring up on their patrol car computers the proper response to a train-vehicle crash. With assistance from Lieutenant Chris Grotton of the State Police, a brief summary will appear with some of the basic details of conducting such an investigation. For example, it's been believed by some that the engineer is in control of the train, but in reality it's the conductor. Also, some investigators have asked for the driver's license of the engineer and/or conductor – something that doesn't exist.

## We stand ready to deliver the railroad safety message statewide.



E-mail: [info@maineol.org](mailto:info@maineol.org) or  
Call 207-827-7367

### Here's where we've been lately through July 31, 2010:

- |   |  |                           |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| Southern Maine EMS Show, Portland                     | Bangor Fire Department   | Brooks Fire Department    |
| Northeast Technical Institute, Bangor                 | Bath Police Safety Day   | Bucksport Fire Department |
| Somerset County Emergency Management, Jackman         | Maine Eastern Railroad, Rockland                               |                           |
| Maine School Wellness Conference, Carrabassett Valley | Ron Fox Driving School, Fairfield                              |                           |
| Oxford Hills Truck Driving School, S. Paris           | Downeast Scenic Railroad, Ellsworth                            |                           |
| Oakfield Railfan Day                                  | Mattawamkeag's 150 <sup>th</sup>                               | Verso Paper, Bucksport    |
| P&M Driving School, China                             | Gulf Oil, S. Portland  |                           |
| Bair's Driving School, Bangor and Hermon              | Maine Association of Pupil Transportation, Carrabassett Valley |                           |



"Our long-awaited murals have arrived. Paid for by an Operation Lifesaver grant, the murals, this one pictured at Oakfield Railfan Day, was painted by Ken Brooks and then enlarged to its eight-by-four foot size."