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# Maine Operation Lifesaver Quarterly Newsletter July 2009



**Four individuals recently completed** a day-long presenter training course held at the offices of the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad in Auburn. The course covers important talking points when presenting before various groups, clearly delivering the information to the audience, holding their attention, and supplementing the presentation with approved, audience-oriented visuals.

Those completing the presenter training course included Jason Birkel of Portland and Josh Eichel of South Paris, both employed by the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad; Mari-Melinda Smith of the Freeport Police Department and a resident of Pownal; and Richard Lane of Nottingham, New Hampshire, who volunteers with the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport. Soon each will be joined by a veteran presenter who will critique the new presenters' initial program.

The course was taught by volunteers Norma Griffiths and Mike Grizkewitsch.

**Congratulations to Norma Griffiths**, who has been certified as a presenter trainer by Operation Lifesaver. She has completed a four-day course on training new presenters and in July led her first course with assistance and oversight by the Federal Railroad Administration's Mike Grizkewitsch.



Norma, who is employed as manager of claims, documentation, and reporting for the Montreal, Maine, & Atlantic Railway, has been a presenter with Maine Operation Lifesaver since 1999 and has delivered dozens of presentations to literally thousands of adults and children along with staffing numerous rail safety exhibits and displays where she has had one-on-one contacts with hundreds of others. She has also served as a director for the organization.

**More than 30 copies of the new DVD "Look to Live"** have been sent free of charge to driver education schools statewide. Furthermore, the Maine Driver Education Association has agreed to post on its website the fact that members can contact Maine Operation Lifesaver for their own free DVD. The video features two parts: a trauma physician detailing the reality of what happens when a human being driving or riding in a vehicle is hit by a train, and a longer portion featuring teens and scenarios which occur when approaching a railroad crossing.

Another new DVD, "Stay Alive When You Drive," promotes rail crossing safety was released earlier this year and targets truck drivers and commercial drivers license (CDL) students. The fast-paced video provides critical tips to help commercial drivers avoid collisions. Scenes in the video include several serious crashes illustrating the high stakes drivers face at crossings.



## Where we've been lately....

We stand ready to deliver the railroad safety message statewide.

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

Old Orchard Beach Fire Department	Glenburn School Safety Fair
Kingman Elementary	Sanford Train Show
Nazarene Sunday School, Gardiner	Fairfield Adult Ed
Topsham Train Show	Gorham Fire Department
Williams Elementary, Oakland	Kennebunkport Boy Scouts
Berwick Elementary	Readfield Elementary
Gardiner Church of Nazarene Teen Group	
Northeast Technical Institute, Hermon	
National Train Day, Auburn and Bangor	
Minot Historical Society	
Oakland School Bus Drivers	
Presumpscot Valley Hazmat Team, So. Portland	
Cumberland Co. Sheriff's Department	
Bert's Driving School, Belfast	
Maine Driver Education Association, Bangor	
National Emergency Numbers Association Conference, Lewiston	
Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference, Augusta	

**Operation Lifesaver state coordinators** from around the country including Maine's Fred Hirsch met in April for a three-day conference to develop and exchange leadership ideas while learning from national staff and Operation Lifesaver partners about new and evolving programs. Among some of the items discussed and learned:

Model state legislation conforming standards at passive crossings (Maine already has set standards).

By next April, all railroad crossings will include emergency notification signs including identification numbers and a toll-free line to call in event of emergency.

The Federal Railroad Administration is developing a map depicting schools within close proximity of railroads.

New rail safety videos are being produced.

Introduction of new presenter guides.

**For the first time in eight years**, Operation Lifesaver presenters have a new, streamlined guide to use in preparation of and during presentations. The guide comes with a CD of over 50 visuals, some of them new, and many "modernized" for 2009 and beyond, and used at the discretion of the presenter depending on his/her audience. A minimum of seven visuals are used during any presentation. Within the guide, each visual is pictured along with talking points to describe to the audience the significance of the visual. The visuals on CD are to be used as part of powerpoint presentations, but large laminated charts can also be used.

