

**NEBRASKA OPERATION LIFESAVER  
STATE COMMITTEE MEETING  
May 10, 2012  
www.nebraskaol.org  
www.oli.org**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Carol Daley called the meeting to order and Gary Sydzyik gave the Safety Briefing.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Trooper Randy Bybee, Nebraska State Patrol  
Daniel Chapp, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad  
Carol Daley, Executive Director – NEOL  
Daniel Downery, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad  
Bob Grant, Nebraska Department of Roads  
Hilda Gurwell, Union Pacific Railroad, NEOL – Secretary  
Tom Hillyard, Union Pacific Railroad  
Harold Jones, BN Mini Train  
Linda Kearns, Nebraska Office of Highway Safety  
Marvin Kohout, Traffic Safety Plus  
Richard Kotan, Omaha Public Power District  
Mike Meyer, Nebraska State Patrol  
Sean Owings, Nebraska Department of Roads  
Trooper Curt Prohaska, Nebraska State Patrol  
Ron Scholz, Husker Sports Network  
Stu Sutherland, Sarpy Surveyor "Retired"  
Gary Sydzyik, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad  
Rick Vest, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad  
Jeri Willms, OL Presenter

**Statistics:**

Bob Grant provided the following handouts. (See attached).

- Nebraska Traffic Fatality Toll Comparison as of May 10, 2012
- 2012 Nebraska Railroad Fatalities
- 2012 Non-Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities

**Board and Officer Report:**

**Board:**

The NEOL Board of Directors met and discussed the following items: Symposium Update and Email Newsletter, Financial – Budget Overview, BNSF Trailer Grant, Marketing OL, Board Member Alternative and United Way Update and Income Tax/Payroll. The Board completed their Performance Review on Carol Daley. Those in attendance were: Carol Daley, Trooper Randy Bybee, Ron Scholz, Gary Sydzyik, Marvin Kohout and Linda Kearns.

Deb Ashworth will be the representative for Union Pacific and John Simpson will be the alternative.

**General Secretary/Supplies:**

If you are in need of supplies, contact Hilda Gurwell at 402-544-3465 or by email at hildagurwell@UP.com.

**Treasurer:**

Balance on hand as of April 30, 2012 was \$28,231.70. At this time there is a total of \$15,007.66 set aside for the trailer which is in a separate account. Income tax preparation cost was \$600.00. NEOL will be reimbursed \$500.00 from OLI. The Class One railroads will be providing funding to keep the OLI office open for 2012. OLI will be looking into different ways to do business. The Federal Railroad Administration provides grant money for projects, such as the "Think Before You Haul" campaign.

**East Co-Coordinator:**

Hilda Gurwell continues to book presentations.

**West Co-Coordinator:**

No current update.

**Old Business:****New fund raising ideas for 2012:**

Carol is working on getting items together for the silent auction at Railfest/North Platte by July 1st. A picture of the North Platte Canteen and one of the Eagles has been donated for the auction. Stu Sutherland was able to get a DVD on the "History of the Canteen in North Platte" for the auction. We will need to continue looking for any railroad-related items to use at the silent auction. Carol will make a quilt to auction off using OL t-shirts with different types of OL pictures or logos. The t-shirt square needs to be 14" x 14". If anyone has a t-shirt to donate please contact Carol at 402-885-8572 or by email at [neolcadaley@cox.net](mailto:neolcadaley@cox.net). Carol has a letter available for those businesses who donate items for the auction to use for income tax records.

Carol contacted United Way regarding donations being placed directly into the NEOL checking account. She found that a certain amount of money has to be in the account before it is transferred otherwise it will be transferred at the end of the year.

**New Business:****Ag Safety Campaign/Update – Mitch Herring**

Mitch Herring, of Learfield Communications, provided an overview of the Ag Safety grant through Operation Lifesaver Inc. for the Nebraska Operation Lifesaver Campaign – "Think Before You Haul." The purpose of the campaign is to encourage farmers and ranchers over the spring planting season and well into fall of 2012, to understand what they are hauling and what rail crossings they may encounter. During the spring season there are many farmers who are traveling the rural roads hauling large amounts of hazardous materials. When traveling to and from the Cooperatives and back to the individual farms, farmers and ranchers may use alternative routes to transport these materials and more than likely to travel over private crossings. This public awareness campaign was launched March 5 and ran thru May 11, 2012. The total budget is \$10,000 and includes statewide radio, PR, print and Internet. Mike Meyer and Matt Davison recorded the two messages played by 30 radio stations. The radio stations played 9 messages per week rotating the two messages for 8 weeks. Each radio station ran 71 (30) second ad messages for the 8 weeks. Besides the PSAs 150 posters were printed for the local cooperatives. Mitch estimated that over 191,000 people across the state heard the message 4.6 times.

Posters with the message "Think Before You Haul" are available for placement at feed lots, grain elevators, ethanol plants, farm supply stores, etc. Copies of the poster are available by contacting Carol at 402-885-8572 or by email at [neolcadaley@cox.net](mailto:neolcadaley@cox.net).

**Fairs – Events:**

- College World Series – June 14 – 25/26 – Omaha, NE. An Operation Lifesaver booth sponsored by Union Pacific will be set up on Thursday, June 14. The booth hours will be 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with three hours shifts the first four days. If you are interested in helping pass out hand fans and working the booth, contact Hilda Gurwell at [HildaGurwell@UP.com](mailto:HildaGurwell@UP.com) or call 402-544-3465.
- OL Symposium, Denver - June 26 thru June 28. Open to State Coordinators, Board of Directors and Trainers/Presenters. The symposium will focus mainly on the leadership of Operation Lifesaver. NEOL will provide the registration fee of \$125.00 for those interested in attending. If interested, contact Hilda Gurwell at [HildaGurwell@UP.com](mailto:HildaGurwell@UP.com) or call 402-544-3465. NEOL receives \$1,500.00 from OLI for getting the year end reports in on time. This money is designated for the Symposium. Ron Scholz will be giving a presentation on Marketing.
- Nebraska State Fair, Grand Island – August 24 thru September 3 – Note: Need Presenters for State Fair. The booth is located on the north side of the fairgrounds. Contact Hilda Gurwell at [HildaGurwell@UP.com](mailto:HildaGurwell@UP.com) if you are able to work the State Fair.
- Railfest 2012, North Platte – September 14, 15, 16 – Note: Need presenters for Railfest. There will be a train at this event.

- Union Pacific Operation Lifesaver trains ran in Grand Island, Columbus, and Fremont. Columbus had the highest attendance of the three towns.

Contact Carol at 402-885-8572 or by email at neolcadaley@cox.net if you know of any major events which are going on and she will see that they are listed on the Events Section of the website (www.nebraskaol.org).

**Website for Students:**

Ron Scholz is working on a train safety education interactive website with the Omaha Public Schools and the Department of Education. This statewide education program would be available to everyone and be another tool for the schools to get the train safety message as a permanent part of their curriculum. There could be a type of E-learning activities for 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade level students. The website could have a 2 or 3 minute video on train safety with interactive games. There is a possibility of developing a relationship with the Soybean and Corn Boards to provide help with this website

There were concerns over students not getting the full Operation Lifesaver presentation. It was noted that the OL website already has train safety activity and information available.

**Projects:**

**Photography on Tracks** – John Simpson

**Ethanol Plants** – Larry Johnson

No additional information available at this time.

**Professional Drivers** – Larry Johnson

No additional information available at this time.

**Trucking/Insurance Company Contacts** – Larry Johnson, Ron Scholz

No additional information available at this time.

**Open Discussion:**

Future Projects – All input would be appreciated.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned. Next NEOL meeting will be held on July 12, 2012.

Minutes were taken by Linda Kearns, Recording Secretary. Any corrections or additions will be noted at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Kearns - Recording Secretary

**Future Meeting Dates:**

July 12, 2012 NEOL State Committee Meeting/BBQ, Havelock Shops, 6600 Burlington Avenue, Lincoln, NE

September 13, 2012 NEOL State Committee Meeting, Havelock Shops, 6600 Burlington Avenue, Lincoln, NE

# Nebraska Traffic Fatality Toll Comparison

## Daily Count Thru 8:00 A.M. Thursday May 10, 2012

COMPARISON TO DATE	THUS FAR		URBAN	RURAL	RURAL BY ROADWAY			URBAN BY ROADWAY			BY SELECTED ACCIDENT TYPES				
	BY MONTH	BY YEAR			INST.	OTHER HWYS.	CO. ROADS	INST.	OTHER HWYS.	LOCAL ROADS	MOTOR-CYCLE	ATV	TRAIN	PEDES-TRIAN	BIKE
<b>2008</b>	4	74	10	64	9	36	19	1	3	6	3	0	1	2	0
<b>2009</b>	7	65	21	44	3	23	18	0	6	15	2	2	0	5	1
<b>2010</b>	3	53	10	43	12	19	12	0	1	9	3	1	0	3	2
<b>2011</b>	5	46	19	27	2	14	11	1	7	11	3	0	1	1	0
2008 - 2011 Average	4.75	59.5	15	44.5	6.5	23	15	0.5	4.25	10.3	2.75	0.75	0.5	2.75	0.75
<b>2012</b>	2	61	18	43	5	15	23	1	5	12	5	1	2	4	0
<b>% Change 2011 - 2012</b>	-60%	33%	-5%	59%	150%	7%	109%	100%	-29%	9%	67%	100%	100%	100%	0%
<b>2012 Compared to 2008 - 2011</b>	-58%	3%	20%	-3%	-23%	-35%	53%	100%	18%	17%	82%	-64%	100%	45%	-100%

Prepared By: Highway Safety Section, Traffic Engineering Division  
Nebraska Department of Roads

May 10, 2012

**2012 NEBRASKA RAILROAD FATALITIES  
MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC FATALITIES**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FATALITIES</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>LOCATION &amp; RAILROAD COMPANY</u>	<u>Alcohol-Related</u>
1-11-12	1	Scotts Bluff	(City St) In Gering, 10 <sup>th</sup> Street Union Pacific Railroad	No
1-25-12	1	Buffalo	(Co Rd) 4 West & .5 South of Kearney Union Pacific Railroad	Unknown

Train Fatalities

2001	4
2002	12
2003	6
2004	5
2005	9
2006	4
2007	6
2008	1
2009	4
2010	2
2011	2
2012	2

Train Injuries

2001	16
2002	19
2003	15
2004	17
2005	25
2006	22
2007	21
2008	19
2009	18
2010	4
2011	13
2012 (Jan)	0

Train Crashes

2001	40
2002	46
2003	46
2004	38
2005	40
2006	37
2007	40
2008	39
2009	38
2010	20
2011	19
2012 (Jan)	5

**NON-MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC FATALITIES  
2012**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FATALITIES</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>LOCATION, RAILROADCOMPANY, &amp; ACCIDENT TYPE</u>

No Non-Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities reported as of May 10, 2012