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American Short Line and  
Regional Railroad Association's

# VIEWS & NEWS



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## Upcoming Events

### 2009 Eastern Region Meeting

October 11-13, 2009  
Indianapolis, IN

### 2009 Southern Region Meeting

November 8-10, 2009  
Panama City Beach, FL

### 2010 Annual Convention

May 1-4, 2010  
Hilton Bonnet Creek  
Orlando, FL

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## **ASLRRRA WELCOMES MORE NEW MEMBERS**

*ASLRRRA's Cheryl Huyck and Eileen Keane report on our newest members:*

**We are pleased to welcome the following new Associate members:**

**1-800 RR Emergency:** 1-800 RR Emergency specializes in providing 1-800 call center services particularly for the short line railroad industry. 1-800 RR Emergency is owned and operated by Telecommunication and Federal Railroad Administration veterans Jerry Bailey, Marty McLendon, and Fred Dennin. The company is located at 26 Chief's Trail, Sharpsburg, GA 30277 and their main number is (404) 557-9769. Please contact Railroad Consultant Fred Dennin at [fdennin@numail.org](mailto:fdennin@numail.org).

**Auto Truck Group:** Auto Truck Group has been serving the railroad industry since 1958. The company designs and manufactures custom truck bodies and equipment for railroad and fleet customers. They also carry a complete line of equipment and truck bodies from Knapheide, Reading, Force America, Harsco, IMT, National Crane, and more. Auto Truck Group also has a dedicated railroad parts department and offers a team of mobile field service mechanics for repair, FRA and crane inspections. Auto Truck Group has locations in Bartlett, IL; Ft. Wayne, IN; Louisville, KY; Aurora, CO and Colorado Springs, CO. Their main telephone number is 630-860-5600. Their website is [www.autotruck.com/rr](http://www.autotruck.com/rr) and their fax number is 630-860-5631. Please contact Director of Railroad Sales Bill Holberg at cell phone: 630-432-9268, or [bholberg@autotruck.com](mailto:bholberg@autotruck.com).

**Merichem Chemicals & Refinery Services:** Merichem Chemicals & Refinery Services manufactures copper naphthenate, a wood preservative approved by the AWWA as a wood preservative for railroad cross ties. The company is located at 2701 Warrior Rd., Tuscaloosa, AL 35404 and their main number is (205) 462-2277. Merichem's website is [www.merichem.com](http://www.merichem.com) and their fax number is (205) 556-0568. Please contact Plant Manager John Greer at [jgreer@merichem.com](mailto:jgreer@merichem.com).

**Phoenix EHS Consultants, LLC:** Phoenix EHS Consultants, LLC provides environmental, safety, and health consultation services. The company has a patent-pending autonomous sound recording device used to transmit locomotive noise horn signatures to a central data management site. The company is located at 2927 Branwood Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32277 and their main number is (904) 472-9608. Phoenix EHS Consultants' website is [www.phoenixehs.com](http://www.phoenixehs.com) and their fax number is (904) 744-0672. Please contact Managing Member Dr. Lisa McKenna at [lmckenna@phoenixehs.com](mailto:lmckenna@phoenixehs.com).

**And we are pleased to welcome the following new Associate Sustaining member:**

**Consolidated Rail Corporation:** Consolidated Rail Corporation is a switching and terminal agent for line-haul carriers of Norfolk Southern Corporation and CSX Corporation operating in three (3) geographical regions: Detroit, Michigan; Northern New Jersey/Staten Island; and Southern New Jersey/Philadelphia. The company is located at 1000 Howard Boulevard Suite 400, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054 and their main number is (856) 231-2000. Consolidated Rail Corporation's website is [www.conrail.com](http://www.conrail.com) and their fax number is (856) 231-2002. Please contact President & Chief Operating Officer Ronald L. Batory at [ronald.l.batory@conrail.com](mailto:ronald.l.batory@conrail.com).

**Are you aware of a company with different products or services than your own and interested in heightening their visibility to short line and regional railroads? Then let Cheryl Huyck know, so that she may acquaint them with the many benefits of becoming an ASLRRRA associate member. Email Cheryl at [chuyck@aslrra.org](mailto:chuyck@aslrra.org) or phone her at (202) 585-3431.**

## **SECOND HOURS OF SERVICE PETITION FILED**

ASLRRA has now filed a second petition for waiver with the Federal Railroad Administration related to hours of service, and on behalf of smaller member railroads. This latest filing proposes an exemption from Chapter 211 of the new hours of service regulations, specifically, from the six-on-then-two-off and the seven-on-then-three-off work requirements, and from the 276-hour monthly work cap. The filing is under provisions of Code Section 21102(b), which provides for possible exemption from Chapter 211 regulations for railroads with less than 16 employees.

ASLRRA filed their earlier hours of service waiver petition with the FRA on July 16. That petition was brought under a different section of the code that allows for a possible hours of service waiver with a pilot project, and is on behalf of member short line and regional railroads with any number of employees.

A copy of this second petition, as posted on the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) website, may be viewed by clicking [here](#). For more information, contact ASLRRA's Keith Borman at [kborman@aslrta.org](mailto:kborman@aslrta.org).

## **HOURS OF SERVICE FAQ LINK FIXED**

In our last edition, we called attention to an FAQ reference available to members about the new hours of service rules. Prepared by ASLRRA's Safety & Training Committee, it was written to answer questions as may be encountered by crew management personnel working to administer the new rules.

Unfortunately – and this was this writer's error – the link to the FAQ included an extra space, which as a result, rendered it unviewable. The correct link is [http://www.aslrta.org/images/news\\_file/HOS\\_Case\\_Studies.pdf](http://www.aslrta.org/images/news_file/HOS_Case_Studies.pdf).

## **FRA RELEASES PROPOSED BRIDGE RULES**

The Federal Railroad Administration has released its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for railroad bridges. This NPRM contains proposed regulations that were called for in last year's Railway Safety Improvement Act.

The NPRM's summary states that , “This proposed rule would require track owners to implement bridge management programs that include annual inspections of railroad bridges. The proposed rule would also require track owners to know the safe capacity load of bridges and to conduct special inspections if the weather or other conditions warrant such inspections. Finally, the proposed rule would also require the audit of the bridge management programs and the inspections.”

A copy of the NPRM, as posted on the [www.gpoaccess.gov](http://www.gpoaccess.gov) website, may be viewed by clicking [here](#). ASLRRA expects to file formal comments, due no later than October 1, about this NPRM and may convene a special meeting of its Bridge Committee in the near future to discuss and come to consensus about them. For more information, contact ASLRRA's Tom Streicher at [tstreicher@aslrta.org](mailto:tstreicher@aslrta.org).

## USDOT ISSUES NEW D&A TESTING FACT SHEET

The U.S. Department of Transportation recently produced a fact sheet, "What You Need to Know About Federal Drug and Alcohol Testing." The fact sheet, two pages in length, provides a summary overview of testing circumstances, procedures and related topics. The latest regulatory changes are reflected, including such matters are Direct Observation Urine Collection.

A copy of the fact sheet has been put on the website for ASLRRA member reference. It may be viewed by clicking [here](#), and can also be printed out to your printer.

USDOT also notes that federal drug and alcohol testing regulations are available in their entirety online, as found in 49 CFR Part 40 and 219. They can be linked to at [www.fra.dot.gov](http://www.fra.dot.gov), then selecting "Railroad Safety," and then selecting "Drug and Alcohol."

## REMINDER OF TSA RAILROAD REGS NOW IN EFFECT

ASLRRA's Steve Sullivan and David Whorton recently sent an email bulletin to members alerting them to the conclusion of the customary "cooling off" period allowed by the federal government to comply with new rules. In this case, the rules are incorporated in 49 CFR Parts 1520 and 1580, as issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration. Specifically, they require:

- 1) **The designation, and filing with TSA, of a Rail Security Coordinator for your railroad. This became effective December 26, 2008.**
- 2) **The formalization of a secure chain of custody for the handling of HM-232E commodities. This became effective April 1, 2009.**

ASLRRA asks that their member railroads ensure their full compliance with these rules.

For more information, contact Steve Sullivan at [sullivan@aslrra.org](mailto:sullivan@aslrra.org) or (202) 585-3432. **Note: If you are not yet in compliance, contact him at once!**

## NEW UMLER DATE APPROACHING, CUTOVER DOWNTIMES SET

The cutover from old Umler to new Umler – originally scheduled for last month but postponed – is now set for August 29-31. Railinc, the owner and maintainer of this longtime industry equipment file, has published an alert to the cutover, including system downtimes, which is here reprinted:

The production implementation for Railinc Umler (also known as Umler/EMIS) will occur between **02:00 EDT Saturday, August 29, 2009** and **23:59 EDT Monday, August 31, 2009**.

- Umler, Umler/EMIS 3.1 Umler/EMIS 3.2 will ALL be unavailable during this period. All Umler TRAIN II messaging inputs submitted during this period will be held for processing until after the completion of the Release 3.2 deployment. Customers are asked to please defer any large updates on **Friday, August 29, 2009**, until Umler/EMIS is in production.
- TSUM will no longer be available after **02:00 EDT Saturday, August 29, 2009**. Following deployment at **18:00 EDT Monday, August 21st**, all web-based transactions will use the new Umler System, available via Railinc Single Sign-on at [www.railinc.com](http://www.railinc.com). TSUM users can find complete training information for the new system on the Railinc website at [www.railinc.com/umler](http://www.railinc.com/umler).
- EHMS will remain active but users will be unable to perform Air Brake Test (ABT) reporting during the Umler/EMIS maintenance outage and will resume at **18:00 EDT Monday, August 29, 2009**.

- LRB will remain active but users will be unable to perform Locomotive Inspection reporting during the Umler/EMIS maintenance outage and will resume at **18:00 EDT Monday, August 29, 2009** .
- Users of the equipment verification features of EHMS, LRB, Circular OT-5, Embargoes, RAMP-ED, SCO-90 and SCRS may experience intermittent connection time-out on **Saturday, August 29, 2009**
- The Car Hire Accounting Rate Master (CHARM) will be processed and distributed on September 1, 2009 as scheduled, using Umler data submitted prior to 02:00 AM August 29, 2009. **All Umler transactions affecting September 2009 car hire rates must be reported prior to the 2:00 AM cutoff to be considered for September CHARM processing.**
- Car hire rate negotiations (Bid and Offer) will continue to be processed through August 31, 2009; however, no new offers will be allowed with a September 2009 effective date after August 28, 2009

Railinc has provided a broad range of training materials and useful resources to help users adapt to the new system including:

- A short Umler overview video
- Four [training modules](#)
- Task-specific [Web demos](#)
- "Ask the expert" webinars (more dates to come in September) [Register now](#)
- An Umler [user guide and data specification manual](#)
- An [online "sandbox"](#) where users can learn to use the new system
- Special information for [Query 87 users](#)

All of this information can be found on the Railinc website at [www.railinc.com/umler](http://www.railinc.com/umler). And if you have any further questions, please contact the Railinc Customer Support Center at 1-877-RAILINC (1-877-724-5462) or [csc@railinc.com](mailto:csc@railinc.com).

### **DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR ORDERING MOTOROLA ASTRO-SPECTRA NARROWBAND CARD**

**The deadline for being included in the special production run of component cards that upgrade the narrowband displays of Motorola Astro-Spectra radios has been extended until September 15.**

As background, railroad radios capable of transmitting both wideband and narrowband interlock band operation with channel display. Other than the Motorola Astro-Spectra, these radios operate narrowband by the user including a leading numeral "0" (zero) when specifying the radio channel. As example, if a user wants to operate on Narrowband Channel 58, they then select "0 5 8". The AAR Spectrum Management Office, which administers railroad radio use, has adopted the leading zero as the standard narrowband channel indicator.

However the Astro-Spectra, as originally produced, operates narrowband by a user including a leading numeral "1" (one) when specifying the radio channel. Again as example, if an Astro-Spectra user wants to operate on Narrowband Channel 58, they then select "1 5 8". Concern for this non-standard has led the AAR Wireless Communications Committee, which is overseeing rail industry conversion to narrowband, to progress the development of a component card that will allow the Astro-Spectra to operate narrowband by using and displaying a leading zero.

Amtrak, CSX and Norfolk Southern have recently arranged with Scholer-Johnson Corporation of Orlando, FL to develop and manufacture component cards for the Astro-Spectra radios they own. These will be built in a special production run later this summer for an order cost (at this writing) of approximately \$150-200 apiece. ASLRRA has spoken with the president of Scholer-Johnson, Mr. David Johnson, who has advised that other interested railroads can be included in this special production run.

If you are a short line or regional railroad that has locomotives equipped with Astro-Spectra radios and intend for these radios to continue in service, ASLRRA strongly recommends that you purchase these component cards for them. You may do so by directly contacting Scholer-Johnson at (407) 645-5093.

Please note that ASLRRA has no relationship with Scholer-Johnson other than for informational purposes.

### **CHICAGO CREATE ADJUSTED FOR CN'S ACQUISITION OF EJ&E**

*The following report is excerpted from a recent article on the Progressive Railroading website:*

The Association of American Railroads, Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Department of Transportation and Chicago Department of Transportation recently agreed to modify the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) program to meet Canadian National's needs past its absorption of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway.

The parties eliminated the full Central Corridor between CN's Waukesha and Chicago subdivisions, as defined in the program's feasibility plan and preliminary screening, because CN no longer requires the route after acquiring an alternate corridor through the EJ&E transaction.

However, major portions of the Central Corridor's southern half will be retained to provide a new direct route – over Norfolk Southern's Chicago Line – for Amtrak trains traveling from New Orleans and Carbondale to Chicago Union Station. The route portions will minimize impacts to Amtrak and freight trains already using the line, according to CREATE organizers, who are seeking federal stimulus dollars for the more than \$1.5 billion program.

In addition, a "C5" project involving CN largely has been retained and will be known as the "WA7" project.

CREATE organizers are accepting public comments until September 11 on an amendment to the final feasibility plan and preliminary screening that incorporates the changes.

### **BNSF SENDS SHORT LINE PARTNERS TO HAZMAT TRAINING**



Realizing the importance of expert training in responding to hazmat incidents and accidents, BNSF recently sent 32 short line and regional railroaders for hazmat training at its expense. The training, which was held the week of August 3, was conducted at the Security & Emergency Response Training Center (SERTC), a state-of-the-art facility at the Transportation Technology Center in Pueblo, CO.

Pictured above, the class was made up of hazmat responders from short lines and regionals that connect with BNSF. Participating railroads included the Arkansas & Missouri, Central California Traction, Iowa Interstate, Kansas & Oklahoma, Kyle, Los Angeles Junction, MidSouth, Minnesota Northern, Montana Rail Link, Nebraska Northeast, Northern Plains, Pacific Harbor Lines, Pioneer Railcorp, San Joaquin, Tacoma Rail, Terminal Railway-Alabama State Docks, Texas North Western, and Watco Companies.

ASLRRA commends BNSF for sponsoring this excellent and comprehensive training for their short line partners. Special thanks also to BNSF's Assistant Director-Hazardous Materials Pat Brady, Director-Hazardous Materials Ed Chapman, and AVP-Short Line Development Mark Schmidt, for their help in making it happen.

### **REMINDER TO SIGN UP TO BID ON NS SURPLUS**

Are you signed up to receive Norfolk Southern's periodic emails alerting to their disposing of surplus rail and related equipment? NS recently sent out requests for bids for a 12.5 ton-capacity Galion crane and nine locomotive cooling fans.

Due to the customarily short lead time between when a bid is offered and when it closes, ASLRRA recommends that you directly contact Norfolk Southern to be added to its distribution list for surplus equipment. This also allows you to receive photos of that equipment, additional to further specifics about it. To get added, send an email with our name and email address to [assetdispo@nscorp.com](mailto:assetdispo@nscorp.com).

### **USDA FORECASTS RECORD SOYBEAN CROP**

U.S. farmers are on track to produce the largest soybean crop in history, according to this month's Crop Production Report released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Services.

Soybean production is forecast at a record-high, 3.2 billion bushels, up 8 percent from last year. Yield is expected to average 41.7 bushels per acre, up 2.1 bushels per acre from 2008. If realized, this will be the fourth largest soybean yield on record.

Corn production is forecast at 12.8 billion bushels, up 5 percent from last year, but down 2 percent from the 2007 record. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 159.5 bushels per acre, up 5.6 bushels from last year. If realized, this will be the second highest yield on record. Growers are expected to harvest 80 million acres of corn for grain, down 100,000 acres from June, but up 2 percent from last year.

All cotton production is forecast at 13.2 million bales, up 3 percent from last year. Yield is expected to average 816 pounds per harvested acre, up 3 pounds from last year. Producers expect to harvest 7.77 million acres of all cotton, up 3 percent from last year.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.54 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the July 1 forecast, but down 18 percent from 2008. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.2 bushels per acre, up from last month, but 3 bushels below last year. Harvest in 18 major producing states was 85 percent complete by August 2.

USDA Crop Production Reports are published monthly and available online at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

### **ASLRRA STARTS HURRICANE WATCHES, ASKS MEMBERS HELP**

ASLRRA has begun its seasonal hurricane watch. Most recently for Hurricane Bill, ASLRRA's Steve Sullivan carefully tracked the storm's progress, including examining different forecasting models of its projected path.

Bill eventually spun out to sea and dissipated. But had it stayed a hurricane and headed toward the U.S. mainland, ASLRRA would have activated its hurricane preparations procedures. In advance of landfall, this would have included timely email bulletins about the storm's status, checks for PIH-TIH carloads using the Railinc Freightscope System, and preparedness advice to railroads – short lines, regionals, and Class I connections – locating in the storm's possible path. Following landfall, conference calls would have been scheduled, once daily or more, to assess damage and determine any assistance railroads might need. Concerning these ASLRRA "hurricane calls," an official of the Federal Railroad Administration recently commented that they were among the most useful means of assessing situation status of railroads, before, during and after a

storm's landfall.

ASLRRA asks its member railroads, especially those in the Southern and Eastern states, to make sure that they have correct emergency contact information on file with us. Also and as a significant storm approaches, please keep an eye out for ASLRRA email and text updates, and make sure to designate the people on your railroad who will join the conference calls and report your railroad's status. For more information on any aspect of ASLRRA's hurricane preparation procedures, contact Steve Sullivan at [sullivan@aslrra.org](mailto:sullivan@aslrra.org) or Dave Mears at [dmears@aslrra.org](mailto:dmears@aslrra.org).

### **NEW ASLRRA CLASSIFIEDS DEBUT**

Have you seen the new ASLRRA classified ad email? Many of you have commented on its new eye-catching design and how effectively it communicates an advertiser's goods or services.

To increase the visibility of our valued suppliers and improve awareness of the catalog of online ads in the Classifieds section of ASLRRA's website, these ads are sent via email to key personnel of all ASLRRA member companies. They expertly summarize an advertiser's offerings and feature an enticing title to promote envelope opening and easy-to-use links to view the full ad online and directly contact the seller.

Online ads may be purchased by ASLRRA members for only \$30 a month, or \$300 for an entire year. In addition to residing in the searchable Classifieds section of ASLRRA's website, ads are also emailed out to hundreds of member contacts each month.

For more information on this knockout way to get the word out about what you're selling, contact ASLRRA's Dave Whorton at [dwhorton@aslrra.org](mailto:dwhorton@aslrra.org).

### **BUILDING YOUR 2010 BUDGET? PLAN FOR ASLRRA EVENTS**

ASLRRA is in the process of assembling its 2010 budget and likely your company is also at this time. So it's the right time for you and appropriate others to make a budget allocation that provides for the maximum number of your company's personnel to attend ASLRRA's 2010 events. These are:

**Railroad Day On Capitol Hill:** Where railroaders, their shippers, and other industry VIPs come to tell their senators and representatives all about short lines and the legislative needs that will help our industry. Register and ASLRRA and Chambers, Conlon & Hartwell will take care of the rest, including setting up your congressional appointments, preparing you for your meetings, and arranging for your attendance at an extraordinary evening of reception and dinner with industry colleagues. (To be held this coming February, more details soon forthcoming.)

**2010 ASLRRA Convention:** Now a centerpiece event of the rail industry itself – the editors of Railway Track & Structure Magazine recently referred to this year's record-breaker in Las Vegas as a “barnburner of a meeting” – railroaders, suppliers, government and industry officials will gather in four-figure numbers to meet, do business, and learn. Featuring an outstanding program of events, including an exhibit hall wall-to-wall with ASLRRA member booths and over forty different education and training sessions. (To be held this coming May 1-4 at the Hilton Bonnet Creek Resort in Orlando, Florida.)

**2010 ASLRRA Regional Meetings:** These meetings, one held in each of ASLRRA's three regions, offer a greater diversity of program events and the chance to talk more intimately with customers and colleagues. ASLRRA has also recently enhanced the traditional Regional Meeting lineup with FRA instructional seminars. These provide members with yet another opportunity to get up to speed on the hottest topics and latest rail industry regulations. (To be held in the second half of 2010, more details soon forthcoming.)

For further information, contact ASLRRA's Kathy Cassidy at [kcassidy@aslrra.org](mailto:kcassidy@aslrra.org).

## 2010 CONVENTION FACEBOOK PAGE NOW LIVE

ASLRRA and its predecessor organizations may have been around for nearly one hundred years, but we aren't shy about using the latest technology to communicate what's going on! Recently, the Association established a Facebook page to preview its 2010 convention in Orlando. ASLRRA's Jenny McKinney, who helped create the page, fills us in:

"Do you love ASLRRA's Annual Convention? Is it your "can't miss" event of the spring? Or maybe you've never attended, but are looking forward to the 2010 meeting in Orlando, Florida, May 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>. If any of these describe you, then you should *become a fan of ASLRRA's Convention on Facebook*. Check this page regularly for meeting updates and to see videos and pictures from the 2009 convention. You'll find a great *connection* to the *pieces to success: the interaction, the exhibition, the education, and the location*. And by the time May 1<sup>st</sup> rolls around, you'll be prepared to come to Orlando and take full advantage of all the meeting has to offer. To get started, just log into [Facebook](#), search for "ASLRRA Annual Convention", and click 'Become a Fan'."

And speaking of the 2010 Convention, here's its new logo. Watch for this atop the latest release of Convention news, as one of the great events in railroading begins to take shape!



For further information, contact Jenny McKinney at [jmckinney@aslrta.org](mailto:jmckinney@aslrta.org).

## ITAC REBORN AS SHORT LINE INFORMATION IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Earlier this year, we reported on a new ASLRRA standing committee, the Information Technology Advocacy Committee (ITAC). Efforts to launch the committee have recently gained steam and now include the participation of the Association of American Railroads, which has designated it an AAR/ASLRRA joint committee so that key participants from Class I railroads can assist the committee in accomplishing its goals.

The committee has recently been renamed the Short Line Information Improvement Committee (SLIIC). It will initially address four tasks:

- Promote increased use of industry reference files that facilitate improved business processes
- Continue to promote more and better event reporting by short line and regional railroads, in furtherance of the former Short Line Integration Team (SLIT)
- Act as a body to consider and comment related to industry systems changes, specifically, those changes that, from time to time, require a railroad's (or an information system provider's) systems or data files to be changed to accommodate a new or revised requirement
- Consider and promote best industry information systems practices by short line and regional railroads, in cooperation with their Class I partners

Efforts are now underway to build the committee's membership, including gaining representatives from Class I railroads, third party information systems providers, railroads with their own (proprietary or "homebuilt") transportation and billing systems, and other railroaders involved with industry information systems. For more information about SLIIC, contact ASLRRA's Dave Mears at [dmears@aslrra.org](mailto:dmears@aslrra.org).

### **CDC URGES BUSINESSES TO PLAN NOW FOR 2009-2010 INFLUENZA SEASON**

The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released new guidelines that recommend actions that non-healthcare employers should take now to decrease the spread of seasonal flu and the H1N1 flu in the workplace. These guidelines are to help U.S. businesses maintain continuity during the 2009-2010 flu season and include additional strategies to use if flu conditions become more severe.

Actions that the CDC recommends employers take at this time include the following:

- Review or establish a flexible influenza pandemic plan and involve your employees in developing and reviewing your plan
- Conduct a focused discussion or exercise using your plan, to find out ahead of time whether the plan has gaps or problems that need to be corrected before flu season
- Have an understanding of your organization's normal seasonal absenteeism rates and know how to monitor your personnel for any unusual increases in absenteeism through the fall and winter
- Engage state and local health departments to confirm channels of communication and methods for dissemination of local outbreak information
- Allow sick workers to stay home without fear of losing their jobs
- Develop other flexible leave policies to allow workers to stay home to care for sick family members or for children if schools dismiss students or child care programs close
- Share your influenza pandemic plan with employees and explain what human resources policies, workplace and leave flexibilities, and pay and benefits will be available to them
- Share best practices with businesses in your communities (especially those in your supply chain), chambers of commerce, and associations to improve community response efforts
- Add a "widget" or "button" to your company webpage or employee websites so that employees can access the latest information on influenza. Resources for this may be found at [www.cdc.gov/widgets/](http://www.cdc.gov/widgets/) and [www.cdc.gov/SocialMedia/Campaigns/H1N1/buttons.html](http://www.cdc.gov/SocialMedia/Campaigns/H1N1/buttons.html).

### **TOMC SIGNS MORE RAILROADS FOR HEARING SERVICES, AS DEADLINE ARRIVES**

Today (August 26) is the date that FRA regulation mandates that railroads have a noise monitoring program in place. This program is required by Public Law 49 CFR Parts 227 and 229, "Occupational Noise Exposure for Railroad Operating Employees." Included in the requirements are that railroads monitor noise levels to which their employees are exposed.

Transportation Occupational Medicine Consultants (TOMC), an ASLRRA preferred service provider, recently reported that it has now been signed by Patriot Rail and Pioneer Railcorp to provide occupational hearing services for their railroads. This follows their having earlier been signed to provide these services to RailAmerica and Watco Companies railroads, and to nearly all Genesee & Wyoming railroads. All told, about 150 short lines and regionals, covering about 3,500 affected employees, now utilize TOMC.

The services TOMC provides include noise monitoring, audiogram review and comparison, online hearing and noise training, hearing conservation programs, secure online recordkeeping, and more. Should you still need to procure an occupational hearing services provider, link to [http://www.aslrra.org/member\\_tools\\_services/member\\_services/member\\_partner\\_programs/](http://www.aslrra.org/member_tools_services/member_services/member_partner_programs/) for more information about TOMC.

### **WORD ON SAFETY: GOOD HOUSEKEEPING**

The importance of keeping a workplace clean, orderly, and in a sanitary condition cannot be underestimated. It is a key element in preventing injuries and illness.

From a recent edition of an Amtrak safety publication, here are some tips for good housekeeping in the workplace:

- Don't leave tools, materials, cords, boxes, and other tripping hazards on the floor.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Never place materials in aisles and passageways or on the stairs.
- Stack materials carefully and securely so that they don't fall over.
- Don't leave sharp tools lying around with their edges exposed.
- Turn off and unplug power tools when you're not using them.
- Keep drawers closed so they do not become a tripping hazard.
- Don't let combustible trash and scrap build up. Dispose of it safely at regular intervals.
- Keep flammable and combustible materials away from ignition sources.
- Make sure chemical containers are properly sealed and not leaking.
- Prevent dirt and grease from building up on machinery.
- Smoke only when permitted, and make sure cigarettes and matches are properly extinguished.
- Avoid keeping food and beverage in the work area.
- Report any hazards you can't safely eliminate yourself.

### **CONFERENCES COMING UP**

**September 16-18, 2009, Global Railway Tech 2009:** To be held at the Hilton Chicago & Towers Hotel, Chicago, IL. Sponsored by the Railway Supply Institute. For more information, link to [www.rsiweb.org](http://www.rsiweb.org).

**September 23, 2009: Railroad Insurance Management Association (RIMA) Annual Meeting:** To be held at the Marriott in Colorado Springs, CO. For more information, link to [http://www.aar.org/NewsAndEvents/UpcomingEvents/2009-RIMA\\_AnnualMeeting.aspx](http://www.aar.org/NewsAndEvents/UpcomingEvents/2009-RIMA_AnnualMeeting.aspx).

**October 11-13, 2009, ASLRRRA Eastern Region Meeting:** To be held at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN. More details forthcoming, be sure to check back at [www.aslrra.org](http://www.aslrra.org).

**October 19-20, 2009, Railway Age's 16th Annual Passenger Trains On Freight Railroads Conference:** To be held at the Washington Marriott, Washington, DC. For more information, contact Jane Poterala at [jpoterala@sbpub.com](mailto:jpoterala@sbpub.com) or (212) 620-7209.

**November 2-6, 2009, Railroad Track Inspection & Safety Standards Training Workshop:** To be held at the Center for Transportation Research, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. For more information, contact Jenny Jones at [gohjones@utk.edu](mailto:gohjones@utk.edu) or (865) 974-6549.

**November 8-10, 2009, ASLRRA Southern Region Meeting:** To be held at the Marriott Bay Point Resort, Panama City Beach, FL. More details forthcoming, be sure to check back at [www.aslrra.org](http://www.aslrra.org).

**January -10, 2010, NRC 31st Annual Conference:** To be held at the Sanibel Harbour Resort Spa, Fort Myers, FL. The NRC hotel block is now open. For more information about the hotel or the conference, including a draft program overview, go to the NRC 2010 conference link on the left side of the NRC home webpage at [www.nrcma.org](http://www.nrcma.org).

### **NEW RAILROADS**

**A new railroad is the Last Mountain Railway.** Assigned Reporting Mark LMR and AAR Rule 260 Code 478, the railroad was expected to begin operations on or about August 20, 2009. It will operate approximately 85 miles of line between Regina, SK and Davidson, SK, in Canada, and will interchange with CN at both Regina and Davidson. The railroad's main contact is Mr. Sheldon Affleck, VP-Operations, Last Mountain Railway, P.O. Box 3192, Regina, SK S4P 3G7, Canada, P: (306) 533-0882, F: (877) 329-5432, [sheldon.affleck@mobilgrain.com](mailto:sheldon.affleck@mobilgrain.com). (NOTE: If you would like a copy of LMR's notice adopting the 11 stations on the line between and including Regina and Davidson, email ASLRRA's Dave Mears at [dmears@aslrra.org](mailto:dmears@aslrra.org) and he will send you a copy.)

Also and as advance information, the **Temple & Central Texas Railway** will shortly begin operations at the Temple Rail Park in Temple, TX. The T&CT will be the sixth in the Patriot Rail family of railroads. According to Temple city officials, Patriot Rail will be the exclusive manager and operator of the line for two years. Customers in the park will include regional grocier H-E-B, which is constructing a 400,000-square-foot distribution center in the park.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Arizona Railroad Group recently changed its name to ARG Trans. The company's principal subsidiary is the **San Pedro & Southwestern Railroad**, which operates between Benson and Curtiz, AZ, and connects with Union Pacific at Benson. ARG Trans and the SPSR date to 2003, when SPSR was acquired from RailAmerica ...The Mankata Free Press recently reported that the **Minnesota Prairie Line** will use \$2.5 million in federal stimulus funds for line rehabilitation. The railroad, which operates between Hanley Falls, MN and a connection with the Twin Cities & Western at Norwood, MN, is owned by the Minnesota Valley Regional Rail Authority. A MPLI spokesman said that the \$2.5 million will be combined with \$10 million from other sources to rehabilitate the line, possibly as far west as Winthrop, MN ...Trains resumed running August 14 through **Montana Rail Link's** Mullan Tunnel, which crosses under the Continental Divide near Blossburg, MT. A cave-in July 20 had closed the tunnel since that time, and a further cave-in occurred earlier this month. An MRL spokesman said that an \$18 million project to renovate the tunnel will continue ...**Morristown & Erie Railway** and Roxbury, NJ officials recently reached an agreement to reconstruct four miles of rail line within the municipality. The reconstruction will permit the M&E to serve a lumber dealer in Roxbury ...**RailAmerica** has announced the startup of a new contract switching business, appropriately called RailAmerica Contract Switching Services. Additional to switching services, the subsidiary will also offer rack maintenance, rail car and locomotive repairs and rail car cleaning. Heading the new company will be RailAmerica VP Jeff Geary ...**Williams Venker & Sanders** partners Theodore Williams, Paul Venker and Steven Sanders were recently included in "The Best Lawyers In America 2010," a Woodward/White publication. Mr. Williams was recognized for his work in the fields of personal injury litigation and railroad law, while Mr. Venker was recognized in the areas of labor and employment law, medical malpractice law and personal injury litigation. Mr. Sanders was recognized for his achievements in personal injury litigation as well as commercial and product liability litigation.

## OTHER INDUSTRY NEWS

**CSX** held groundbreaking ceremonies August 14 for a new intermodal terminal near North Baltimore, OH. Management of the construction of the new terminal, as well as its operation, will be handled by CSX subsidiary Evansville Western Railway ...In a column for the **Trains Magazine** website, Contributing Editor Fred Frailey noted that six of the seven Class I railroads had experienced "almost sequential increases in traffic" since the week ending July 18. Mr. Frailey noted that, from the week ending July 18 through the week ending August 15, rail traffic increased as follows: BNSF up 1 percent; Canadian National up 8 percent; Canadian Pacific up 3 percent; CSX up 5 percent; Norfolk Southern up 2 percent; and Union Pacific up 5 percent ...**Norfolk Southern** recently announced that it will build a new intermodal terminal in Greencastle, PA. The terminal will be built on a 200-acre site and is expected to be complete by 2011. Once fully operational, the terminal will be capable of handling more than 85,000 trailers and containers annually ...**Norfolk Southern** has also announced that it will make a \$100,000 grant to Penn State University. The grant will support a new four-year railroad and transit engineering degree program that will start at Penn State in Fall, 2010 ...A "**Port Tracker**" report was released that projected that import cargo volume at the nation's major container ports would total 12.3 million units for 2009, representing an 18.8 percent drop from 2008's volume and the lowest level in seven years. The report was prepared by the National Retail Federation (NRF) and Global Insight. An NRF spokesman added that, "the good news is that we're expecting to move from double-digit declines into single digits [declines] by the end of the year" ...The 12th Annual **Transportation & Infrastructure Summit** was held earlier this month in Irving, TX. The meeting featured a panel discussion that included the CEOs of BNSF, Kansas City Southern, and Norfolk Southern. All three CEOs stressed that a return to pre-Staggers Act regulation, as has been encouraged by some rail shipper organizations seeking rate reductions, would be detrimental to the rail industry. The CEOs expressed their hope that lawmakers would move forward with a "rational regulation policy" ...**Union Pacific** announced that it would replace its mainframe computer systems with a distributed IT infrastructure utilizing blade servers running Linux. A UP spokesman said that the new IT infrastructure would cost approximately \$150 million and that it hoped to retire its last mainframe by 2014.

## CLASS I RAIL TRAFFIC

**For the week ending August 15, 2009**, U.S. rail volume grand totaled 29.5 billion ton-miles, down 16.7 percent from the comparable week last year. U.S. carload rail traffic was down 17.1 percent – down 17.8 percent in the East and down 16.6 percent in the West – and notable traffic decreases ranged from non-grain farm products down 0.9 percent to metals and metal products down 51.0 percent. Also for the week, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was down 18.4 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was down 21.7 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was down 16.7 percent, Mexican carload rail traffic was down 10.6 percent, and Mexican intermodal rail traffic was down 15.0 percent.

**For the period January 1 through August 15, 2009**, U.S. rail volume totaled 897.8 billion ton-miles, down 18.0 percent from the comparable period last year. Also for this period, U.S. carload rail traffic was down 18.9 percent, U.S. intermodal rail traffic was down 17.2 percent, Canadian carload rail traffic was down 23.8 percent, Canadian intermodal rail traffic was down 16.3 percent, Mexican carload rail traffic was down 15.2 percent, and Mexican intermodal rail traffic was down 21.2 percent.

(NOTE: Canadian traffic totals include those of the U.S. operations of Canadian Pacific Railway and Canadian National.)

## RAILINC SHORT LINE TRAFFIC INDEX

The Railinc Short Line Traffic Index is movement-based, totaling loaded trips originating on all non-Class I railroads for all destinations and, also, all loaded trips terminating on all non-Class I railroads from all origins. This is tallied from all railroads that have passed movement event records to Railinc, including from all third party information services providers. In some instances, Railinc is not a party to accompanying waybill information and so those unknown commodities are presented in “All Other.”

The index is calculated monthly. **The below data is for January 1 through July 31, 2009.** Special thanks to Railinc’s Shawn Petway for this valuable statistical information.

COMMODITY	2009 YTD ORIGS	2008 YTD ORIGS	% CHG	2009 YTD TERMS	2008 YTD TERMS	% CHG	2009 YTD TOT	2008 YTD TOT	% CHG
Chemicals	266,061	299,336	-11.1%	295,163	344,752	-14.4%	561,224	644,088	-12.9%
Coal	131,934	157,875	-16.4%	397,633	452,653	-12.2%	529,567	610,528	-13.3%
Crushed Stone, Sand, Gravel	116,661	141,335	-17.5%	80,744	90,042	-10.3%	197,405	231,377	-14.7%
Food & Kindred Products	97,578	99,171	-1.6%	85,124	89,434	-4.8%	182,702	188,605	-3.1%
Grain	171,024	206,540	-17.2%	157,550	200,369	-21.4%	328,574	406,909	-19.3%
Grain Mill Products	55,557	59,331	-6.4%	79,743	86,440	-7.8%	135,300	145,771	-7.2%
Lumber & Wood Products	45,075	76,193	-40.8%	39,076	59,040	-33.8%	84,151	135,233	-37.8%
Metallic Ores	18,175	30,387	-40.2%	47,281	83,570	-43.4%	65,456	113,957	-42.6%
Metals & Metal Products	116,484	215,096	-45.9%	71,553	153,086	-53.3%	188,037	368,182	-48.9%
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	38,519	63,056	-38.9%	42,115	70,448	-40.2%	80,634	133,504	-39.6%
Nonmetallic Minerals	15,690	20,115	-22.0%	15,931	19,513	-18.4%	31,621	39,628	-20.2%
Petroleum Products	11,433	14,667	-22.1%	13,293	17,526	-24.2%	24,726	32,193	-23.2%
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	121,894	165,152	-26.2%	83,250	107,862	-22.8%	205,144	273,014	-24.9%
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	81,479	107,175	-24.0%	65,852	84,019	-21.6%	147,331	191,194	-22.9%
Trailer or Container	213,552	282,051	-24.3%	180,538	217,149	-16.9%	394,090	499,200	-21.1%
Waste & Scrap Materials	64,402	96,053	-33.0%	79,623	121,258	-34.3%	144,025	217,311	-33.7%
All Other Carloads	564,232	660,052	-14.5%	542,219	618,958	-12.4%	1,106,451	1,279,010	-13.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,129,750</b>	<b>2,693,585</b>	<b>-20.9%</b>	<b>2,197,952</b>	<b>2,724,351</b>	<b>-19.3%</b>	<b>4,406,438</b>	<b>5,509,704</b>	<b>-20.0%</b>

## RMI RAILCONNECT SHORT LINE TRAFFIC INDEX

The RMI Railconnect Index is waybill-based and totals shipments billed by non-Class I railroads using RMI billing products. For this report, this totals 340 such railroads. This index is calculated weekly. The **below data is as of the week ending August 15, 2009**, the 32nd full week of this year. Special thanks to RMI's Cheri Denton for this valuable statistical information.

	Week Ending August 15			Year-To-Date		
	2009	2008	% Change	2009	2008	% Change
<b>CARLOADS HANDLED</b>						
Coal	11,217	17,224	-34.88%	420,285	486,892	-13.68%
Grain	13,597	16,316	-16.66%	398,412	478,115	-16.67%
Farm & Food (Exc. Grain)	5,224	6,077	-14.04%	165,782	182,967	-9.39%
Ores	1,884	3,229	-41.65%	51,727	91,472	-43.45%
Stone, Clay, Aggregates	11,714	14,804	-20.87%	328,857	405,154	-18.83%
Lumber/Forest Prods.	3,935	5,395	-27.06%	113,445	158,353	-28.35%
Paper Products	5,430	7,702	-29.50%	182,494	243,022	-24.91%
Waste & Scrap Materials	4,808	6,985	-31.17%	139,362	209,667	-33.53%
Chemicals	15,953	17,854	-10.65%	483,117	556,943	-13.26%
Petroleum & Coke	3,488	6,144	-43.23%	113,097	186,642	-39.40%
Metals & Products	5,725	11,224	-48.99%	181,299	357,646	-49.31%
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	1,279	1,579	-19.00%	30,789	63,791	-51.73%
Intermodal	6,551	12,534	-47.73%	208,064	405,174	-48.65%
All Other	1,508	3,386	-55.46%	44,830	97,974	-54.24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>92,313</b>	<b>130,453</b>	<b>-29.24%</b>	<b>2,861,560</b>	<b>3,923,812</b>	<b>-27.07%</b>

### HELPFUL LINKS

To use the Railinc Embargo & Permit System, including open & prepay station (OPSL) notes, link to <https://aarembargo.railinc.com/epdb/public.do>

Members wanting to review ASLRRRA recommended emergency preparations may link to <http://members.aslrra.org>, enter email and password, click on the word "Documents" at the top of the page, then click on "ASLRRRA Emergency Plans" on the left side. Contact ASLRRRA's Dave Whorton at [dwhorton@aslrra.org](mailto:dwhorton@aslrra.org), P: (202) 585-3430 if you need further assistance.

To reach the Railinc homepage, link to [www.railinc.com](http://www.railinc.com).

And speaking of helpful links, have you checked out the ASLRRRA website? If not, do so! Additional to an exciting new look, the site is packed with a host of new and improved features and tools. Check it out at its customary location on the World Wide Web: [www.aslrra.org](http://www.aslrra.org).

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 American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association  
 50 F Street, N.W., Suite 7020, Washington, DC 20001  
 (202) 628-4500 FAX (202) 628-6430 [aslrra@aslrra.org](mailto:aslrra@aslrra.org)

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