



American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

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ASLRRRA Honors 346 Railroads for Safety Performance

Jake Award Recognizes Above Industry-Average Safety Performance for 2020

WASHINGTON – June 2, 2021 – The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA) today announced the recipients of the [Jake Safety Awards](#), including nineteen member railroads being recognized as [President’s Safety Award winners](#). The Jake Award program recognizes member railroads for above-industry average safety performance during 2020. To be honored with a Jake Award, an ASLRRRA member must perform better than the industry average reportable injury frequency rate for railroads other than Class I, commuter railroads and Amtrak based on data reported to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) during the calendar year, and must have completed all FRA-required Employee-On-Duty reporting for 2020. That average industry reportable injury frequency rate for 2020 was 2.18 per 200,000 employee on-duty hours.

Of the 346 [Jake Award recipients](#), 316 member railroads will be honored “[with Distinction](#)” recognizing their FRA reportable injury-free performance in 2020.

“Safety is the number one priority on every railroad. Our member railroads are focused not only on compliance, but on creating a strong safety culture where each employee feels

accountable for safety, day in and day out,” said Chuck Baker, President of ASLRRA. “This year ASLRRA member railroads reduced their injury rate by 10%, significantly outpacing the overall industry decline of 8% in an impressive year for railroad safety. That includes a record 316 ASLRRA member railroads receiving Jake with Distinction Awards reflecting zero employee-on-duty accidents on their railroads in 2020. This is a testament to each member’s focus on operating safely in spite of a disrupted and uncertain supply chain during the pandemic; investment in maintenance and new technology; and to the Short Line Safety Institute, which has provided significant leadership in the area of safety culture to short line railroads.”

This year’s results have shown:

- A record number of award recipients with zero reportable accidents (316 vs. 278 in 2019).
- ASLRRA railroad members outpaced industry-wide safety improvements (10% vs. 8%).
- The gap between incident reporting rate of ASLRRA members and the overall FRA reporting rate¹ is narrowing rapidly. In 2019, the gap was .32, and in 2019, the gap was .26, an improvement of 19%.

Nineteen ASLRRA members are [President’s Award Winners](#), designated as a Jake Award recipient that posts the lowest reportable injury frequency rate per Federal Railroad Administration regulations as measured within man-hour categories. The awards will be presented at the 2021 [ASLRRA Regional Meetings](#) held this month.

Central Region Winners

Port Terminal Railroad Association	Lowest Frequency Rate: more than 500,000 man-hours
Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co.	Lowest Frequency Rate: 250,000 – 500,000 man-hours
Petroleum Service Railroad	Lowest Frequency Rate: 150,000 – 250,000 man-hours
Stillwater Central Railroad	Lowest Frequency Rate: 50,000 – 150,000 man-hours
Illinois & Midland Railroad, Inc.	Lowest Frequency Rate: less than 50,000 man-hours

Eastern Region Winners

Gary Railway Company	Lowest Frequency Rate: 250,000 – 500,000 man-hours
Columbus & Ohio River Rail Road Co.	Lowest Frequency Rate: 150,000 – 250,000 man-hours
New England Central Railroad, Inc.	Lowest Frequency Rate: 50,000 – 150,000 man-hours
Delray Connecting Railroad Company	Lowest Frequency Rate: less than 50,000 man-hours

Pacific Region Winners

Montana Rail Link, Inc.	Lowest Frequency Rate: more than 500,000 man-hours
Portland & Western Railroad	Lowest Frequency Rate: 250,000 – 500,000 man-hours
Terminal Switching Services	Lowest Frequency Rate: 150,000 – 250,000 man-hours
Central Oregon & Pacific Railroad	Lowest Frequency Rate: 50,000 – 150,000 man-hours
Bighorn Divide & Wyoming Railroad, Inc.	Lowest Frequency Rate: less than 50,000 man-hours

Southern Region Winners

Conrad Yelvington Distributors, Inc.	Lowest Frequency Rate: more than 500,000 man-hours
Railsolve Inc. - Switching	Lowest Frequency Rate: 250,000 – 500,000 man-hours
R.J. Corman/Central Kentucky Line	Lowest Frequency Rate: 150,000 – 250,000 man-hours
South Central Florida Express, Inc.	Lowest Frequency Rate: 50,000 – 150,000 man-hours
Tennessee Southern Railroad Co.	Lowest Frequency Rate: Less than 50,000 man-hours

The Jake Awards are named for Lowell S. “Jake” Jacobson, the President and General Manager of the Copper Basin Railway. After achieving a perfect safety record for the CBRY in 1993, Jake realized that there was no award that recognized smaller railroads’ safety records. In 1999, the ASLRRRA Safety Committee adopted the Jake Awards, and since then, has continued Mr. Jacobson’s legacy of rewarding and drawing attention to the high safety standards of the small railroad industry.

Since its inception in 1995, the Jake Award program has distributed more than 6,200 Jake and Jake with Distinction Awards to America’s small railroad community.

ASLRRA would like to recognize the following members for their generous sponsorship support of the Jake Awards: Titanium Sponsors Genesee & Wyoming Railroad Services, Inc. and Rio Grande Pacific, and Iron Sponsors Aspen Insurance Company and Iowa Interstate Railroad, Ltd.

¹ Railroad Safety Statistics as of June 2021, Federal Railroad Administration.

About ASLRRA - The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) is a non-profit trade association representing the interests of the nation's 603 short line and regional railroads and railroad supply company members in legislative and regulatory matters. Short lines operate 47,500 miles of track in 49 states, or approximately 29% of the national railroad network, touching in origination or termination one out of every five cars moving on the national railroad system, serving customers who otherwise would be cut off from the national railroad network.