



American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

50 F Street, NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20001
aslrra@aslrra.org
www.aslrra.org

Contact:
Amy Krouse
akrouse@aslrra.org
(Cell) 312-371-6947

394 ASLRRRA MEMBER SHORT LINE RAILROADS EARN JAKE SAFETY AWARDS FOR 2024 PERFORMANCE

*357 Railroads Earning 'With Distinction' for **Zero** Reportable Injuries - Breaks Prior Record*

WASHINGTON – May 27, 2025 – The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA) today announced that 394 railroads earned a 2024 [Jake Safety Award](#). Most notably, 357 of the awardees are noted “with [Distinction](#)” for **zero** reportable injuries in 2024, which is a record. Nineteen member railroads will be further recognized by ASLRRRA as [President’s Safety Award winners](#) for the lowest injury frequency rate in a variety of regions and person-hours worked categories.

To achieve a Jake Award, an ASLRRRA member railroad must perform better than the average reportable injury frequency rate per 200,000 person-hours worked for ‘railroads other than Class I, transit, commuter railroads and Amtrak’ as evidenced by Railroad Injury and Illness Summary Forms submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for each of the twelve months of 2024. In 2024, a Jake Award winner must have an injury frequency rate lower than the industry average of 2.31, a reduction from the prior year’s rate of 2.38.

“For short line railroads, there is nothing more important than operating safely. The Jake Award program is an industry bellwether of performance against that goal each year,” said Chuck

Baker, President of ASLRRA. “It is particularly notable that the average industry injury frequency rate, based on FRA-reported performance in 2024, has dropped, making it more difficult to achieve a Jake Award. Yet, 394 of our member railroads have notched a frequency lower than industry average, and of these a record breaking 357 railroads reported zero injuries. Zero is remarkable! These results are a testament to the short line industry’s dedication to ‘Safety First, Every Day,’ and our commitment to investing in technology, infrastructure, and continuous training for employees to be ever-safer.”

The following ASLRRA members are [President’s Award Winners](#), designated as a Jake Award recipient that posts the lowest reportable injury frequency rate per FRA regulations as measured within the various region and person-hour categories. The President’s Awards will be presented at the 2025 ASLRRA Region Meetings held this fall: in Charlotte, N.C., September 9 - 11 for the Eastern and Southern regions and in New Orleans, La., November 3 - 5 for the Central and Pacific regions.

Central Region Winners

Belt Railway Company of Chicago	Lowest Frequency Rate: more than 500,000 person-hours
Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis	Lowest Frequency Rate: 250,000 – 500,000 person-hours
South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad	Lowest Frequency Rate: 150,000 – 250,000 person-hours
Burlington Junction Railway	Lowest Frequency Rate: 50,000 – 150,000 person-hours
Arkansas-Oklahoma Railroad, Inc.	Lowest Frequency Rate: less than 50,000 person-hours

Eastern Region Winners

Consolidated Rail Corporation	Lowest Frequency Rate: more than 500,000 person-hours
Union Railroad Company, LLC	Lowest Frequency Rate: 250,000 – 500,000 person-hours
Indiana & Ohio Railway Company	Lowest Frequency Rate: 150,000 – 250,000 person-hours
SMS Rail Service Inc.	Lowest Frequency Rate: 50,000 – 150,000 person-hours
Rochester & Southern Railroad, Inc.	Lowest Frequency Rate: less than 50,000 person-hours

Pacific Region Winners

Portland & Western Railroad	Lowest Frequency Rate: 250,000 – 500,000 person-hours
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Clarkdale Arizona Central Railroad, LC	Lowest Frequency Rate: 150,000 – 250,000 person-hours
Great Northwest Railroad	Lowest Frequency Rate: 50,000 – 150,000 person-hours
Southwestern Railroad, Inc.	Lowest Frequency Rate: less than 50,000 person-hours

Southern Region Winners

Conrad Yelvington Distributors	Lowest Frequency Rate: more than 500,000 person-hours
Paducah & Louisville Railway	Lowest Frequency Rate: 250,000 – 500,000 person-hours
Alabama & Gulf Coast Railway	Lowest Frequency Rate: 150,000 – 250,000 person-hours
Aberdeen, Carolina & Western Rwy. Co.	Lowest Frequency Rate: 50,000 – 150,000 person-hours
Georgia Southwestern Railroad	Lowest Frequency Rate: Less than 50,000 person-hours

Award Background

The Jake Awards are named for the late 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 ASLRRA 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. He was inducted into the [Short Line Railroading Industry Hall of Fame](#) in 2024. For more information on Jake’s legacy, click [here](#).

Since its inception in 1995, the Jake Award program has distributed nearly 7,800 Jake and Jake with Distinction Awards to America’s small railroad community.

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 50,000 miles of track in 49 states, or approximately one third 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.