ASLRRA to Build Resource Library to Assist Short Lines in Disaster Preparedness

Recent weather events in the Midwest have caused catastrophic damage to the national rail network, and significantly impacted operations at several ASLRRA member railroads. These events have underscored the critical need to develop a comprehensive directory of disaster response / emergency preparedness resources for short line and regional railroads. ASLRRA is seeking the assistance and knowledge of railroads, suppliers, and contractors who have experience with disaster recovery and emergency preparedness. Resources and materials can be forwarded directly to ASLRRA’s summer intern Davis Strench at dstrench@aslrra.org or contact Davis directly if you’d like to discuss ways you can lend support.

As a reminder, ASLRRA’s staff is able to assist short line members in accessing property directly after an emergency and accessing emergency waivers following the issuance of an Emergency Docket by the Federal Railroad Administration. Contact Jo Strang or JR Gelnar for more details.

Online Registration Now Open for Comprehensive GCOR Training

ASLRRA and Iowa Northern Railway Company have partnered to provide in-depth training on General Code of Operating Rules (GCOR) July 16-18 at Iowa Northern’s training facility in Waterloo, IA.

This comprehensive three-day training seminar is intended for railroads who have adopted the GCOR as their operating rules and may be used to meet operating rules training as required by 49 CFR Part 240, 242 and 214 Subpart C. Attendees must bring their Seventh edition GCOR for reference; training will cover chapters 1 - 10, 14 and 15. The seminar will be taught by ASLRRA’s Vice President of Safety & Compliance, JR Gelnar, and Iowa Northern Railway’s Assistant General Manager, Mark Vaughn. Space is limited to 24 participants so please register early to reserve your seat. Please visit the registration page for additional details and to access the online hotel registration link.
Work Continues on 45G, Baker Meets with Key Congressional Staffers

On Tuesday the House Ways and Means Committee held a roundtable for Members of Congress to weigh in on their priorities. The need to make 45G permanent was raised multiple times in the lengthy hearing. On Thursday, ASLRA President Chuck Baker will brief the Senate Finance Committee staffers on the need to authorize the tax credit for 2018 and 2019 and to make 45G permanent.

ASLRA Announcements

Seeking Webinar Topics and Speakers
ASLRA is currently blocking out our webinar calendar through the end of the year and we are seeking member input on timely and relevant topics and speakers. Please contact Sabrina Waiss with topic suggestions and/or speakers who can present general or industry-specific educational content. Webinars must be educational in nature and cannot promote a specific product or service. Topics with broad appeal and wide applicability may cover best practices in finance, human resources, and operations & safety; new or emerging trends in technology and marketing & business development; and industry-specific information related to engineering, mechanical, legal, and regulatory practices. Visit ASLRA’s On Demand Webinar library for a complete list of recorded webinars categorized by subject area.

ASLRA New Member

We’d like to welcome back as an associate business member Dillon & Nash, Ltd., a law firm based in Northbrook, IL. The practice handles, among other things, establishment of Class III terminal & switching railroads; conversion of transload, warehousing, bulk transfer, trucking, maritime property into railroad property and railroad property tax issues.

Our contact: President & Owner David C. Dillon
ASLARRA Events

NOTE: Last week the wrong date was mistakenly published for the Joint Committee Meeting. The meeting will be held August 20-22.

Regional Meetings:

Central Pacific Region Meeting - San Antonio, Texas
San Antonio Grand Hyatt, Wednesday, Sept. 11 to Friday, Sept. 13

Eastern Region Meeting and F&A/General Counsel Symposium – Columbus, Ohio
Hyatt Regency Columbus, Region meeting Monday, Oct. 7 to Wednesday, Oct. 9, F&A and GCS
Wednesday, Oct. 9 to Friday, Oct. 11

Southern Region Meeting - Charlotte, North Carolina
Charlotte Marriott City Center, Monday, Nov. 11 to Wednesday, Nov. 13

Click here for more ASLARRA events.

ASLARRA SAFETY & TRAINING

Post-Accident Toxicological Testing Video
Visit www.aslrra.org/safety for more info

Industry Events

TTAP to Offer Course on Railroad Track Inspection and Safety Standards

The University of Tennessee at Knoxville’s Tennessee Transportation Assistance Program (TTAP) is offering a course titled “Railroad Track Inspection and Safety Standards” Sept. 30 to Oct. 4 in Galveston, Texas.

Topics for discussion include ways to organize, conduct and document track inspections and use that information to identify track maintenance needs and plan maintenance activities. The course has been reviewed and approved by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) under CFR Part 243 of the new training rule, and participants will receive 27 professional development hours and a certificate of completion.

Follow the link for more information or to register.

Update: Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Conference Will Provide Continuing Education Units

After a four-year lull, the National Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Conference has been revived and will take place August 19-22 in Pittsburgh, Pa. It has just been announced that the conference will provide 1.7 hours of Continuing Education Units.
This year’s event is hosted by the Eastern Crossing Seminar, the Federal Railroad Administration, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, RSSI, Texas A&M Transportation Institute, Union Pacific Railroad, BNSF Railway, Norfolk Southern Railway, the North Shore Railroad Companies, and SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority.

Follow this link for more information or to register.

**RailTec Short Course on Railway Engineering Offered at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign**

Offered August 5-9, this course offers interactive lectures, relevant case studies and small group discussions covering Track Systems and Infrastructure Components, Track Structural Analysis and Design, Locomotives, Rolling Stock and Train Performance, and Rail Project Design and Construction. Attendees will also earn 31.5 Professional Development Hours. Click here to register.

Click here for a listing of industry events.

Views & News is published by American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association. Please contact Amy Krouse, editor, with questions or comments.