

Creating and Maintaining a Culture of Safety

May 22, 2014



The best of times...

2012 considered the best year ever for rail safety in United States

"While rail is already an extremely safe mode, I'm proud to say that 2012 – by virtually all measures – was the safest year in industry history."

FRA Administrator Joseph Szabo ASLRRA Annual Meeting Atlanta Georgia, April 29, 2013

...suddenly became a very challenging time.

July 6, 2013: Lac-Mégantic derailment







However, safety focus and performance remains strong.

Two straight years of record-breaking safety performance, along with significant reductions in all types of accidents since FYI 2008, proves that FRA's approach to oversight and enforcement is effective.

- Human Factor Caused Accidents: down 38%
- Track Defects: down 37%
- Equipment Defects: down 41%



FRA Safety Fact Sheet February, 2014

Our industry and safety

Common themes across all railroads

- A continuous focus on safety improvement
- Leaning from past mishaps
- Collaborative efforts to find best practices



So why are some railroads safer?

A common theme with successful companies:

Developing and Maintaining a Culture of Safety

Culture: ...the set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterizes a company or corporation...

Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition

Our panelists

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