



A MESSAGE FROM

# Teamsters Rail Conference

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW • Washington, DC 20001 • Phone: 202.624.6800 • Fax: 202.624.3086

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**Contact:  
Galen Munroe, (202) 624-6904  
gmunroe@teamster.org**

## **UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD BLOCKS TRACK INSPECTORS FROM SAFETY TRAINING**

### ***UP Track Inspectors Denied Permission to Attend FRA Track Safety Class***

(Kansas City, MO) – Union Pacific Railroad (UP) has denied permission for several of its track inspectors in the Kansas City area to attend a union-sponsored track safety class conducted by the Federal Railroad Administration, denying rail workers vital safety training that could help lower the chance of track-related train accidents.

An official from Union Pacific Railroad contacted the safety director for the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division (BMWED) last week and took exception to the union-sponsored safety training. The union explained that the program was intended to enhance the skills and knowledge of BMWED-represented track inspectors on railroads operating in the Midwest. UP management requested permission to attend the program with the inspectors, but the manager did not return the union's phone call to discuss management's request.

On the day of the program, BMWED learned that UP managers Joe Guatney and Sylvester E Mutz Jr. would not allow the track inspectors to attend even though UP was not asked to pay the inspectors' salary or expenses. The BMWED made arrangements to pay the salary and expenses of all BMWED track inspectors in attendance.

"I find it outrageous that the Union Pacific would deny these track inspectors an opportunity to attend this FRA-conducted safety program," said Rick Inclima, BMWED Director of Safety. "Evidently, UP does not want its track inspectors to have unfettered access to FRA safety inspectors. For a railroad that claims to place a high priority on safety, its actions belie its safety rhetoric."

Between 2004 and 2007, UP had 3,514 reportable train accidents, including 1,214 train accidents attributed to track-related defects. During this same period, 21 UP employees were killed on duty, including five fatalities suffered by members represented by BMWED.

"Given these safety statistics, BMWED is appalled by the UP's action to block track inspectors from attending this program," Inclima said. "The public and our nation's lawmakers should also be appalled."

**(MORE)**

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BMWED members build and maintain rail track, ties, bridges and rail terminal buildings across the United States. The BMWED also represents 50,000 employees of freight and commuter railroads across North America.

The BMWED is a division of the Teamsters Rail Conference. The International Brotherhood of Teamsters was founded in 1903 and represents 1.4 million hard working men and women in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.