

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!



THE QUARTERLY SAFETY BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, AFL-CIO

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OSH Statistics

Sadly, we recognize that over the past several decades an average of twelve (12) workers within the U.S. marine cargo handling industry have died on the job each year. As we approach the end of 2013, we find that this year will likely close with data very near to that average. In 2013, eleven lives have been lost within our industry. This year, however, there have been some significant changes in the distribution of those workplace deaths. In this issue of **BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!**, we'll explore those changes.

Progress, Or Simply Good Luck?

In previous years, workplace fatalities experienced within the ILA workforce typically accounted for nearly half of the industry's mortality rate. That's not entirely surprising, in that ILA members handle a good deal more than half the import and export cargo at U.S. marine terminal facilities. The balance of workplace fatal accidents occurred at facilities wherein ILWU and non-union workers conducted operations. Moreover, the distribution of fatal accidents experienced by ILA members was slightly weighted toward general cargo/break-bulk operations. Container operations, however, have experienced their share of fatal accidents each year.

In example, in 2012 ten (10) U.S. marine cargo handling workers were killed on the job. Of those ten, six (6) were members of ILA Local Unions. Of those six, two (2) were injured at intermodal container facilities; four (4) were injured at general cargo/break bulk facilities.

This year (2013), we have somewhat better news. At intermodal container and Ro-Ro terminals, there have been ***no fatal injuries*** recorded among ILA workers. In

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contrast, our colleagues at ILWU lost five (5) container facility workers this year. At break bulk facilities, ILA has regrettably lost two (2) workers. The first life was claimed at Camden, NJ in June, when an ILA checker was struck by an industrial truck within a warehouse shed. The second life was lost just last month at Darrow, Louisiana, when an ILA worker seeking access to the hold of a barge was compelled to use a poor means of access. She was crushed when that access (comprised of stepped down, one ton super bags) collapsed [see page 3 of this publication, wherein we mourn her passing].

The life and limb of each ILA worker is precious. And while the International Union, its three safety representatives, and ILA District & Local Union leadership are encouraged by the absence of fatal accidents at container and Ro-Ro terminals in 2013, we won't be satisfied until fatal workplace accidents are just a bad memory.

Hazard awareness and constant caution are on the rise in the hearts and minds of all ILA workers, and ILA leadership will continue to act in a manner that fosters the support of that continued awareness and caution. We sense that our safety progress is a result of that awareness. Don't drop your guard. Be constantly aware. Our industry works best when it works safe!

Need To Be In Touch With An ILA Safety Representative?

ILA members needing advice, assistance or guidance in considering occupational safety related circumstances and/or issues, should keep in mind that your Union's Safety Representatives are available to consult with.

Mr. George Lynch Tel: 917.797.5812 email: glynch@nysailafunds.net
[Located at NY/NJ]

Mr. Bennie Bryan Tel: 912.312.4573 email: bbryan1414@yahoo.com
[Located at Savannah, GA]

Mr. Bob Fiore Tel: 305.798.5845 email: ilabobby@bellsouth.net
[Located at Miami, FL]

Whenever a serious accident occurs, or when a hazardous situation requiring a higher level of technical attention or advice is apparent, please be in touch with your Safety Representatives. Your information is valuable, could save a life and may otherwise remain unknown.

ILA BROTHERS AND SISTERS WATCH EACH OTHER'S BACK FOR SAFETY; FOR EVERYTHING.....

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WE MOURN



The ILA joins the family, friends and co-workers mourning the tragic death of Sister Leonora Melvina Galindo Campbell, a member of ILA Local Union 3033.

On 18 November, we understand that Sister Campbell was descending into the hold of a barge at a marine terminal in Darrow, Louisiana, when the stepped-down, stowed cargo she was compelled to use as a means of access (1 ton super sacks filled with bulk material) collapsed and fell on her.

Stevedoring company and OSHA-initiated accident investigations are ongoing.

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