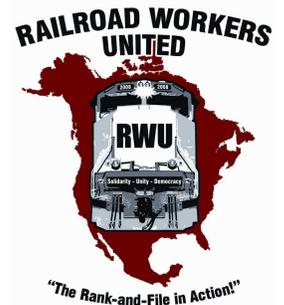


# BLACK SHIRT FRIDAY



[www.railroadworkersunited.org](http://www.railroadworkersunited.org)

## **WHO: Every Railroader**

RAILROAD WORKERS UNITED is asking all rail workers to wear a black shirt to work on **Friday, June 19.**

## **Why: Rail Deaths & Injuries Continue Record Pace**

Our industry has suffered the recent, unfortunate deaths of railroad conductor Brother Jared Boehlke on Mother's Day, May 10, in the CSX Selkirk NY yard; and the death of CSX railroad signalman Brother John Pichalski, Jr. the following day in Middletown, PA. The number of fatalities on the nation's railroads surged to a record pace for the year 2009. In all, twelve rail workers have been killed (and untold numbers injured) on the job so far this year.

## **Where: On the Job**

At the end of March, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) issued an appeal to all railroad organizations and employees for help in stemming this disastrous record of fatalities. The FRA letter said in part, "If a culture exists whereby workers feel they are put in situations where they are making poor decisions for fear of losing their jobs, we must work together to change this culture. The elimination of fatalities, injuries, and accidents depends upon it."

## **What: Carriers Blame Workers - Ignore Hazards**

Railroad Workers United (RWU), a cross craft, inter-union caucus of rail workers agrees with the FRA that something must be done to change the current situation. For over a year now, RWU has actively campaigned for a safety approach that would put eliminating hazards first and foremost on the safety agenda for the nation's railroads. Unfortunately, the rail carriers have continued to emphasize worker behavior over hazard elimination. As a result, the carriers tend to downplay, overlook, or ignore altogether the problems and hazards that are created by management practices. Job cutbacks, job combination, and massive layoffs have left too many rail employees working without the extra support and assistance needed as they face the dangers of their jobs.

## **When: Friday, June 19, 2009**

Friday, June 19, the Friday of Father's Day weekend. RWU hopes that this relatively modest action will play a role in putting to an end any "culture" as the FRA described it where "workers feel they are put in situations where they are making poor decisions for fear of losing their jobs."