

P
M
A

T
D

June 15, 1999
Vol. 2, No. 11

T

A

N

R

PMA Increases Investments in Training West Coast Longshore Workers

As West Coast ports continue to grow in significance within the international trade community, the importance of training waterfront employees to work safely and productively grows more critical. To address this need, the PMA has made training one of its highest priorities. Last year, the PMA successfully trained 17,492 waterfront students, more than twice as many as in 1997 and a new record for the association.

To accommodate the growing need for training, the PMA increased training



ILWU member attends forklift training in Southern California.

Photo: Ray Walters

expenditures to more than \$14 million – another milestone for the PMA. Not only has the association made training available to more workers and increased training dollars, but it also has expanded the range of training programs offered.

General Safety and CPR Training

Included in the breadth of courses is general safety training, which experienced the largest growth in the number of workers completing the course. In fact, last year, the PMA trained 7,798 workers in general safety – nearly 5,000 more people than in the previous year.

“General safety on the waterfront is, and will continue to be a top priority,” said Phil Resch, senior vice president of operations, Pacific Maritime Association. “The PMA invests heavily in its training programs and will continue to train at record levels in 1999. We hope to expand these programs further.”

In addition to general safety, the PMA trains dock workers and member-company staff in standard first aid and CPR to enable employees to take appropriate action in case of an injury or sudden illness on the job.

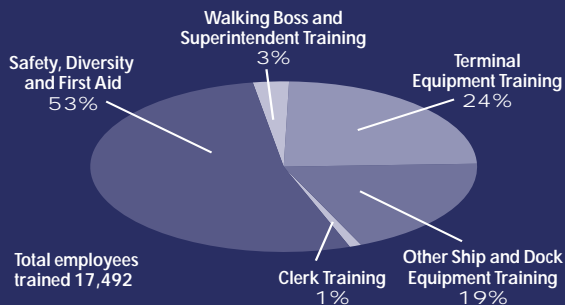
More Program Options

The training programs also are frequently reviewed and updated to meet the needs of a changing work atmosphere. For example, in order to expand the scope and size of the programs, the PMA has purchased forklifts, tophandlers and sidepicks solely for training purposes.

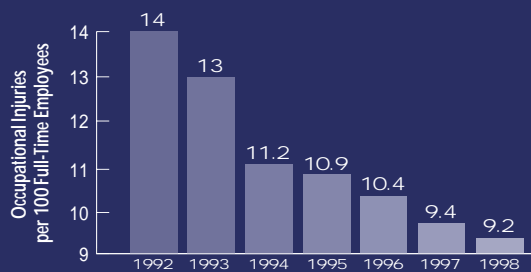
Along the West Coast, several ports recently upgraded their gate entry/exit systems to process trucks and containers for distribution. The new gate screens →

MORE SAFETY TRAINING; LESS INJURIES

1998 Distribution of Employees in PMA Training Programs



Shoreside Occupational Injury and Illness Incidence Rate



PMA Today is a publication dedicated to highlighting West Coast port activities and developments as they relate to economic and international trade issues in the 21st century. We hope you enjoy PMA Today and find it to be a valuable informational resource. For more information about PMA, please visit our Web site at <http://www.pmanet.org>.

THE PORTS

Did you know . . .

... in 1998, the PMA not only doubled the number of dock workers trained, but cut cost per student by more than 20 percent?

Source: The Pacific Maritime Association

required a hands-on training program to familiarize workers with the new technology. This year, the PMA established

initiated several port-specific training options this year to meet the specific needs of local ports. For example, in Longview,



The U.S. Coast Guard awards the PMA with a Certificate of Merit for exceptional dedication to marine terminal safety.

a clerk training program that includes state-of-the-art computers and work stations that simulate the workplace. The Southern California ports have already set up these programs, while implementation is underway at the Ports of Oakland, Seattle and Tacoma.

"Skills for a Changing Workforce" is a new addition to the PMA's training curriculum. Introduced as a pilot program in Washington state in 1997, the program provides one-day workshops exploring diversity, sexual harassment, change management and employee relations. In the program's first two years of operation, nearly 1,000 employees have participated in this training program.

In addition to coast-wide training programs, the PMA

Wash., the PMA created a program to train dock workers handling dusty bulk commodities, such as powdered chemicals and grains. The program trains workers about the proper use of respirators to ensure health and safety are maximized while working with this type of cargo.

Moving Forward

As the PMA and the ILWU negotiate a new contract, safety and training will certainly remain a top priority. Creating and maintaining these training programs is a joint effort. Both the PMA and the ILWU agree on the importance of maintaining a safe and educated workforce to solidify the West Coast ports' competitive advantage. ●

Training and Safety on the Docks

- *In February 1999, the U.S. Coast Guard awarded the PMA a Certificate of Merit for its "exceptional dedication to the safety of marine terminals and maritime personnel."*
- *Last year, the Shoreside Occupational Injury and Illness Incidence Rate on the West Coast ports fell to an all-time low of 9.2 occupational injuries per 100 full-time employees. 1998 was the sixth consecutive year in which the injury rate declined (see graph on opposite page).*
- *The PMA increased training expenditures by more than 67 percent in 1998, enabling twice as many workers to participate.*
- *Last year, general safety training for employees increased by more than 260 percent.*

PMA AT-A-GLANCE

PMA Today (1999 Pacific Maritime Association) is published semi-monthly for the membership of the Pacific Maritime Association. Comments, suggestions, additions to the mailing list and address changes should be sent to PMA, c/o Joey Parr, PO Box 7861, San Francisco, CA 94120-7861. Produced by PMA Staff.