



Minimum Train Crew Size FAQ's

Q: How many crew members currently operate a freight train in Minnesota?

A: Two.

Q: Is there a federal law or regulation that addresses crew staffing on trains?

A: No.

Q: With the implementation of Positive Train Control, is it still necessary to have two people on a train?

A: Yes. Positive Train Control has added more duties and tasks to a train crew, not reduced them.

Q: Why is train crew size being brought to the legislature?

A: Minimum train crew size is a **public safety** and worker safety issue. Public safety is not collectively bargained for. **The public does not have a seat at the collective bargaining table.**

Q: How has technology affected the operation of a modern freight train?

A: As trains have become longer and added extra locomotives to the middle and rear, they have become more complicated and labor intensive to operate. New hand-held mobile devices have added more duties to crew members while on the train as well.

Q: When a train is stopped and blocking crossings in my town, who is responsible for opening them up and letting traffic or emergency responders through?

A: It takes two crew members to accomplish this; one in the locomotive operating the equipment and the other on the ground at the crossing physically manipulating the equipment and directing the separation.

Q: Who coordinates with emergency responders in the event of a derailment?

A: The train crew. One crew member meets with the emergency responders, shares all hazardous material paperwork, and ensures their safety while the other crew member maintains control of the locomotive and train.

Q: How many people does it take to perform required safety inspections on a train?

A: Two. One person operating the controls of the locomotive and the other in the field performing the inspection.

Q: Is train crew size a partisan or labor only issue?

A: No. Surveys have indicated this issue is beyond political party with overwhelming support from the public, 85% saying pass a law.

Q: Is it physically possible for one person to perform all the duties required to safely operate a freight train in Minnesota?

A: No

