

MEMORANDUM

March 3, 2010

TO: ALL LOCAL CHAIRPERSONS
ALL VICE LOCAL CHAIRPERSONS
ALL SECRETARIES/TREASURERS

JCH FROM: JOHN C. HANCOCK, GENERAL CHAIRMAN, UTU

RE: TEXTING, "TWEETING" AND FACEBOOKING WHILE ON A TRAIN

Dear members:

Recently, a Facebook contributor announced on his "wall": "I can't wait to get off this train." Effectively, he announced to anyone who might be listening – other railroaders, foamers, carrier officers, and FRA officials – that he was busy violating federal law by texting, "tweeting", "Facebooking", while on a train.

As we all know, CSX rules prohibit the use of personal communication devices except under a very narrow set of conditions. Use is limited to "brief personal calls", i.e., any use of the Internet, texting, etc., is outlawed.

These rules were brought about by the inability of some individuals to discipline themselves sufficiently to use their phones only when it would not distract from their duties. As is often the case, when we fail to discipline ourselves, the government and companies step in and do it for us.

While we may feel that the rules are overly restrictive, it is a fact that talking or texting while trying to move freight can be a fatal combination. For that reason, and because of the severe penalties attached to a failure to comply, all our members should be adhering religiously to the Carrier's provisions.

For those who are not yet convinced of the importance of 100% compliance, we strongly suggest that you think long and hard before sending time-stamped messages, emails, or Facebook and MySpace announcements out over the Internet while on duty. There will not be much your representative can do if you find yourself in a hearing room on this issue.

YRH:gmt

Cc: All GC - UTU
James Stem, National Legislative Director, UTU