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## **Ferrovías Guatemala celebrates one year with No Personal Injuries**

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**Guatemala City / 6 February 2006** — On 3 February 2006 Ferrovías Guatemala (FVG) completed one year of operations without a single personal injury, joining fellow RDC affiliate Iowa Interstate Railroad in this most elite category of safety performance.

“This is a remarkable achievement, given the past and present circumstances under which our company has operated,” said FVG Chairman Henry Posner III. Ferrovías Guatemala operates 200 miles of main line between Guatemala City and the Atlantic ports of Puerto Barrios and Puerto Santo Tomas, encountering everyday hazards ranging from frequent grade crossings in Guatemala City to squatter colonies occupying the fringes of its main line and torrential storms. “Were FVG a U.S. railroad, this would have made us a candidate for a Gold Harriman Award.” In 2004 Iowa Interstate won the Gold Harriman for its No Personal Injuries safety performance in 2003.

FVG President Bill Duggan commented, “Changing the culture in a country without a ‘safety mentality’ has been one of the most difficult challenges that I have faced in my 40-plus years of railroading. The situation was not one of lacking the desire to work safely, but rather one of never having it discussed or taught. Forty years ago on the U.S. railroads there was a feeling that accidents were bound to happen as long as a railroad operated. The change to a safety culture in the U.S. took many years to accomplish, and is an ongoing challenge to all companies. This involves work on a daily basis and participation ranging from the top officers to the newest hires. Having accomplished a one-year time period with no injuries (down from 40+ injuries 6 years ago) makes all at Ferrovías Guatemala extremely proud. We accomplished this goal starting with the philosophy that it was the right thing to do; knowing that the change had to start at the top; and with the mindset that safety training and awareness for all involved was a condition of employment. All this said, the next challenge is to complete the full calendar year 2006 with the same results.”

FVG General Manager Jorge Senn added, “While we have a long way to go in bringing our operation to the level of International Best Practices, this achievement is proof that our people are now personally engaged in safety improvement at all levels. This began with a priority on safety at the supervisory level and reflects the development of a safety culture for the first time in recent generations in Guatemala.”

Guatemala’s national railway was abandoned in 1996 after years of little maintenance, loss of traffic and invasion by squatters. In 1997 an RDC-led consortium was awarded a 50-year concession to restore and operate the rail system. In 1998 Hurricane Mitch caused extensive damage to the already-begun rehabilitation, but on 1 December 1999 commercial service was finally restored to the Guatemala City-Atlantic corridor. In 2004 FVG moved 157,000 tons of traffic including containers, sugar and steel.

RDC is a privately held Pittsburgh-based railway management and investment company, focusing on “Emerging Corridors in Emerging Markets.” For more information about RDC and its joint ventures in the USA, Argentina, Guatemala, Peru, Estonia, Mozambique and Malawi, please visit [www.RRDC.com](http://www.RRDC.com).

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