



The Maryland Port Administration PRESS RELEASE

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RODEO TIME AT THE PORT OF BALTIMORE!

Unique Program Provides Training on Big-Ticket Farm and Construction Equipment to Newly Hired Longshoremen

BALTIMORE, MD – It's time again to bring out the big machinery at the Port of Baltimore's 14th annual Ro/Ro (Roll On/ Roll Off) Rodeo.

More than 200 longshoremen and women will participate today and tomorrow in driver training exercises at the Port's Dundalk Marine Terminal. Members of the International Longshoreman's Association (ILA) Local 333 will receive hands-on lessons from farm and construction equipment manufacturers and car makers from throughout the country. This event is sponsored by the Maryland Port Administration (MPA), Steamship Trade Association, and the ILA.

"Each year, the Rodeo provides a great opportunity for new longshoremen to gain experience operating these huge pieces of equipment," said MPA Executive Director James J. White. "The Port of Baltimore is the only port in the U.S. to host an annual event like this. The Rodeo is one of the key reasons for our consistent success over the years in attracting more Ro/Ro cargo than any other port in the nation."

This year's Rodeo will showcase tractors, backhoes, combines and other heavy equipment from AGCO, Case New Holland, John Deere, and JLG Industries. Individuals will also be trained on how to properly lash down an automobile on a simulated part of a ship.

"The Port of Baltimore's Ro/Ro Rodeo provides our new members with valuable training experience," said Horace Alston, vice president of the ILA. "Operating these huge pieces of equipment safely is paramount, and this event does a great job in promoting that."

The Port of Baltimore handles more Ro/Ro cargo than any other U.S. port. In 2009, the Port of Baltimore handled 514,000 tons of Ro/Ro equipment.

The Port of Baltimore generates about 16,700 direct jobs. Out of about 360 U.S. ports, Baltimore is ranked number one for handling roll on/roll off cargo; trucks; imported forest products; and imported gypsum, sugar and iron ore. The Port of Baltimore is ranked 14th nationally for total foreign cargo tonnage and 12th for total dollar value of cargo. The Port is responsible for about \$3.7 billion in personal wage and salary income. Activities at the Port of Baltimore generate nearly \$400 million in state and local taxes.

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