

Fighting of JR Railway Workers

From JRU Emergency Headquarter Bulletin No.25

29/3/ 2011

Japan Confederation of Railway Workers' Unions (JRU)

● Oofunato Line (Mori Sta. - Oofunato Sta. No. 338D)

Just after the train started Mori Station, the crew felt a massive shaking, and saw the block wall of a house outside broken. As they heard the tsunami warning, they led nearly 20 passengers to the junior high school on the hill. They helped stranded people on the way and ran and ran. The tsunami waves came rushing 2 or 3 meters behind them. All of them had a narrow escape. The next day, the JREU Youth members came to see them.

● Ishinomaki Station

Working at the station, workers felt a big quake, and they evacuated passengers from the waiting trains together with the station master. After that as they heard the tsunami warning, they led the passengers to the designated evacuation site, the park and the shrine near the station. Then they moved to Ishinomaki High School where they stayed for two days. During the period they ate only a few crisps.

Workers, then, came back alive to their fellow members.

● Senseki Line (Nobiru Sta.-Tona Sta. No.1426S)

After running 300 meters, the train stopped. The crew led 50 passengers to the elementary school 1 kilometer from the coast. The tsunami hit the first floor of the school. All ran up to the second floor. After the water receded, they rescued those who were driven to the school ground. At that time the diver was missing. On the next morning he was found hanging on to the basketball ring! He survived the tsunami.



● Joban Line (Hamayoshida Sta.- Yamashita Sta. No. 92)

Instructed by the train protection radio, the train stopped. Immediately after that, the tsunami rushed toward the train. The locomotive engineer saw houses and cars carried away. His 20 freight containers were also carried, but he continued desperate efforts to survive in the cab. When the tremor became weak, he got out of the cab. He was neck-deep in mud water, and got to a private house. He stayed on the second floor till the next day shivering from cold and fear. He returned alive.



● Joban Line, Shinchi Station, No. 244M

Just before the departure, a big shaking happened. The station building fell down, and everything was scattered about in the office. Workers evacuated passengers from the station. Soon after that a driver and two conductors saw the tsunami rushing to them. They went up to the bridge over railway. The big wave carried the 4-car train away with a roar. The three workers passed a cold and fearful night there.

