

STRIKE STORIES



By Rudy Rey
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During the strike, I worked at the Traction Power Maintenance Department at Division 61. It was exciting and challenging because it gave me a rare opportunity to get hands-on maintenance experience on our rail systems.

One day, we responded to an exhaust fan failure alarm at the 7th and Metro Station. This exhaust fan is essential because it prevents the accumulation of flammable methane gas in the station.

As we were replacing the starter, I recalled the TV series "ER." It was like a team of doctors and nurses performing open heart surgery: "remove that wire, take out the contacts, put in the new starter, make sure the wiring is tight...."

The Traction Power personnel were methodical and precise. I was impressed with the teamwork and I knew the "operation" would be a success.

After the starter was replaced, we were disappointed that the fuse still blew. The "ER" team was shaken but did not give up (this was persistence at its finest). We found the shorted wire and successfully fixed the exhaust fan problem.

We did other tasks such as resetting fire alarms, repairing UPS transfer switches and OCS wires, all of which are vital to maintaining safe and reliable rail operation.

I am proud of the teamwork and dedication of the Traction Power Maintenance Department.

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