



SOFA Switching Fatality and Severe Injury Update – 1st Quarter 2018

Switching Operations Fatality Analysis (SOFA)

- A voluntary, non-regulatory, railroad-safety partnership of representatives from AAR, ASLRRRA, BLET, FRA, and UTU-SMART-TD
- Seeks to prevent switching fatalities through education based on facts about causes
- SOFA is not part of a rulemaking or regulatory process
- Recognizes that all have responsibility for switching safety: employees, managers, and regulators
- SOFA's goal is Zero Switching Fatalities achieved through education and non-punitive interactions among stakeholders

Find SOFA reports and information at: <http://www.fra.dot.gov/SOFA>

SOFA-defined Severe Injury Update

Definition: Based on its interests (i.e., potentially involving the same factors as fatalities), *Severe Injuries* are defined by the SOFA Working Group as (1) potentially life threatening; (2) having a high likelihood of permanent loss of function, permanent occupational limitation, or other permanent disability; (3) likely to result in significant work restrictions; and (4) resulting from a high-energy impact to the human body. 'Severe Injuries' include amputation, dislocation of the neck, loss of eye, electric shock or burn, and fracture to any bone except the lower arm, fingers, foot, and toes. 1997 is the first year these Injuries to train and engine service employees can be determined as defined by the interest of the SOFA Working Group. For more information, see *Severe Injuries to Train and Engine Service Employees: Data Description and Injury Characteristics*. July 2001.

Note: The definition of SOFA-defined *Severe Injuries* is not to suggest that other injuries and illnesses resulting from operations are not also 'severe' and/or cause hardship to employees.



Severe Injuries Year-to-Date and Previous Five Years

Full Year: Present and Past Years	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
SI s	20	68	47	57	76	68
Amputations*	2	9	7	5	13	8

2018 SOFA Severe Injuries

#	Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	Description
1	January	07	PA	42	Fracture	Slipped, fell, stumbled, etc., due to climatic condition while getting on on-track equipment at a yard location.
2	January	09	LA	53	Fracture	PTI van struck a piece of equipment in the roadway at highway/railway location.
3	January	09	LA	57	Fracture	PTI van struck a piece of equipment in the roadway at highway/railway location.
4	January	09	OH	47	Fracture: leg or foot	Slipped, fell, stumbled, etc., due to climatic condition while stepping on side of car with a standing locomotive at a yard location.
5	January	15	IL	46	Fracture: leg or foot	Employee stepped off train and twisted his ankle at Yard location.
6	January	18	CA	31	Fracture: leg or foot	Employee reports while descending the stairs in the cab he slipped resulting in a fractured ankle.
7	January	18	IL	43	Fracture	Lost balance while crossing between cars of a standing freight car standing at a yard location.
8	January	20	VA	40	Fracture	Slipped, fell, stumbled, etc., due to object while walking on ballast beside track at a yard location.
9	January	24	IN	45	Fracture	Highway-rail collision/impact while riding on a car of a moving freight train at a main/branch location.
10	January	26	TX	38	Fracture	Employee fractured rib when the car he was riding on stopped abruptly.
11	January	29	MN	40	Fracture	Employee injured his back when he fell onto the tracks while riding a car in the yard.
12	February	09	TX	70	Fracture: leg or foot	Employee was riding a shove and preparing to dismount. While switching his lantern from one hand to the other, he fell.
13	February	12	NY	27	Fracture	Missed handhold, grab iron, step, etc., of a standing passenger train at a passenger terminal.



#	Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	Description
14	February	13	MN	37	Amputation: leg or foot	Slipped, fell, stumbled, other, while riding on the end of a tank car of a moving freight train at a yard location.
15	February	20	MI	38	Fracture	Crew came upon a washout on the main from heavy rain and snow and derailed causing injuries.
16	February	25	WI	33	Fracture	Employee was a passenger in a van being transported to the head end of his train when their van was struck by another passenger vehicle at an intersection causing injuries.
17	February	28	FL	52	Amputation: leg or foot	Involved a freight car moving. Occurred at highway/roadway location. (Still under investigation)
18	March	06	MN	56	Fracture: leg or foot	Slipped, fell, stumbled, etc. due to climatic conditions while walking beside track at a yard location.
19	March	16	NC	40	Fracture: leg or foot	Struck against object while getting on a moving locomotive at an industry location.
20	March	18	KY	51	Fracture	Injured while operating locomotive from a collision with on-track equipment at a main/branch location.

Switching Fatalities SOFA-defined Severe Injuries and Other Reportable Events

Year	SOFA Switching Fatalities	Employee On-duty Fatalities	T&E Employee On-duty Fatalities	SOFA-defined Severe Injuries	Amputations (Included in SOFA-defined Severe Injuries)	T&E Employees Reportable Casualties (includes Fatalities and Severe Injuries)	Train Accidents	Human Factor Accidents	Percent of Human Factor Train Accidents
2008	12	26	4	87	8	2,217	2,481	910	37 %
2009	8	16	2	53	6	1,972	1,912	656	34 %
2010	8	20	5	63	6	1,883	1,902	650	34 %
2011	4	21	11	69	11	1,735	2,032	752	37 %
2012	3	16	4	47	6	1,553	1,765	666	38 %
2013	1	14	2	68	8	1,742	1,851	712	38 %
2014	2	10	4	76	13	1,912	1,887	743	39 %
2015	3	11	4	57	5	1,727	1,931	761	39 %
2016	3	16	9	47	7	1,483	1,671	643	38 %
2017	3	12	6	68	9	1,696	1,686	639	38 %
2018	0	5	3	20	2	421	416	154	37%