



Fatality Analysis of Maintenance-of-way  
Employees and Signalmen

# FAMES



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## FAMES ALERT

***PLEASE POST IMMEDIATELY***

**January 31, 2021:** At approximately 2:00 pm, a 60-year-old male track laborer with 41 years of service was marking ties when a tamper unexpectedly travelled forward and fatally struck the laborer. The tamper operator, with 28 years of service, stated he had to drop the tamping heads to stop the machine.

### **Take Away**

*While this recent tragedy has not yet been analyzed, the FAMES Committee reminds all roadway workers to remain vigilant. Ensure that during the on-track safety briefing, identify if RMMs will be present and take actions to manage any additional risks associated with their presence. Last, but not least, **remember to always establish clear communication between Roadway Maintenance Machine operators and workers on the ground and maintain proper clearance.***

*The FAMES Committee consists of safety representatives from a cross section of rail labor, railroad management, and federal regulators. FAMES is a continuous improvement process that relies on the candid sharing of available data and the views of its participants. To enable the process, FAMES explicitly refrains from making any findings regarding whether any past or present practice or protocol satisfies any legal duty or standard of care.*

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