



SOFA Switching Fatality and Severe Injury Update 1st Quarter 2020

Switching Operations Fatality Analysis (SOFA)

SOFA is a voluntary, non-regulatory, railroad-safety partnership of representatives from AAR, ASLRRA, BLET, FRA, and SMART-TD with the goal of Zero Switching Fatalities achieved through education and non-punitive interactions among stakeholders. The purpose of the quarterly reports is to keep the industry informed about recent fatalities and severe injuries.

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

2020 SOFA 1st Quarter Fatalities

- **April 23, 2020 – An RCO foreman was fatally injured in North Lake, Illinois when he was pinned between a tractor trailer and the equipment he was operating across a highway-rail grade crossing.**



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

1st Quarter: Present and Past Years	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
SI s	14	13	21	23	9	22
Amputations*	3	0	2	3	1	2



2020 SOFA 1st Quarter Severe Injuries

#	Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	Description
1	January	03	RI	48	fracture: leg or foot	Employee slipped descending interior stairs of coach and slipped resulting in a fractured knee.
2	January	13	IA	53	fracture: leg or foot	Employee injured while sitting in locomotive when sudden/unexpected movement occurred.
3	January	20	IA	35	fracture: torso	Employee slipped on ice and fractured tailbone while switching cars.
4	January	28	NY	28	fracture: leg or foot	Employee fell while stepping down from a standing freight car.
5	February	02	TX	47	fracture: leg or foot	Employee fell and was injured while walking on ballast.
6	February	13	PA	24	amputation: various body parts	Employee suffered amputation of right arm and right leg while switching in a yard.
7	February	27	OH	63	fracture: leg or foot	Slipped, fell, stumbled, etc. due to object while walking on ground near on-track equipment at a main/branch location.
8	February	28	TX	68	fracture: leg or foot	Employee injured by falling while walking on loose ballast.
9	March	03	OR	64	fracture: leg or foot	Employee injured by falling while walking on an irregular surface beside track
10	March	04	IL	49	fracture: leg or foot	Employee injured by falling while walking between yard tracks.
11	March	18	LA	41	amputation: leg or foot	Employee suffered amputation of left foot while shoving equipment
12	March	21	KS	60	fracture: torso	Employee injured while shoving equipment in a track with a close clearance.
13	March	22	PA	36	amputation: leg or foot	Employee suffered amputation after falling while riding the side of a railcar in a yard.
14	March	23	MN	38	fracture: leg or foot	Employee injured by falling while walking on a sidewalk near yard office