



# SOFA Switching Fatality and Severe Injury Update 2nd Quarter 2019

## Switching Operations Fatality Analysis (SOFA)

SOFA is a voluntary, non-regulatory, railroad-safety partnership of representatives from AAR, ASLRRRA, 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>

## 2019 SOFA 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Fatality

- There were no SOFA related fatalities 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2019

## 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

2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter: Present and Past Years	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>SI</b> s	<b>31</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Amputations*</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

### 2019 SOFA 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Severe Injuries

#	Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	Description
1	April	02	IL	39	fracture: torso	Employee fractured rib when a car from train broke away and struck locomotive.
2	April	08	TN	47	fracture: torso	Employee fell while stepping down from on track equipment in a yard.
3	April	08	WA	48	fracture: torso	Employee lost balance and fell backward.
4	April	11	NM	29	amputation: leg or foot	Employee was struck by equipment in a yard.
5	April	15	KS	61	amputation: leg or foot	Employee was injured while riding on a car during a shove move in yard.
6	April	18	OK	30	fracture: leg or foot	Employee was injured while dismounting a locomotive.
7	April	29	OK	62	fracture: torso	Employee was driving a company vehicle. Employee attempted to cross highway after stopping at the stop sign. Employee did not see an oncoming semi truck. The truck hit the vehicle in the rear driver's side.



## 2019 SOFA 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Severe Injuries (continued)

8	April	08	TN	47	fracture: torso	Employee fell while stepping down from equipment in a yard.
9	May	01	TX	27	fracture: leg or foot	Employee lost control of a 4-wheel ATV and ran into a train.
10	May	02	MI	49	fracture: leg or foot	Employee lined mainline switch, turned to walk away and twisted his ankle.
11	May	07	AL	54	fracture: leg or foot	Employee was thrown from railcar during a shoving movement.
12	May	08	LA	45	fracture: torso	Employee was struck by a vehicle while walking in a yard.
13	May	17	GA	59	fracture: leg or foot	Employee fell while walking.
14	June	16	NE	25	amputation: arm or hand	Employee was caught between equipment while adjusting couplers in a yard.
15	June	18	CA	64	fracture: leg or foot	Employee fell while exiting a vehicle in a parking lot.
16	June	18	IN	57	fracture: leg or foot	Employee fell while dismounting moving equipment in a yard.
17	June	28	WA	68	fracture: leg or foot	Employee tripped while walking.
18	June	30	CA	44	fracture: torso	Employee was struck by a railcar in a yard.