



SOFA Switching Fatality and Severe Injury Update 3rd Quarter 2019

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>

2019 SOFA 3rd Quarter Fatalities

- **August 20, 2019 – A Brakeman was fatally injured in Beaumont, Texas when he was pinned between his train and a railcar that had been left unsecured.**
- **September 6, 2019 – A conductor was fatally injured in Shreveport, Louisiana when a vehicle struck the equipment he was riding while shoving into a yard.**



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

3rd Quarter: Present and Past Years	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
SIs	49	35	43	19	33	40
Amputations*	4	5	8	6	6	9



2019 SOFA 3rd Quarter Severe Injuries

#	Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	Description
1	July	07	TX	36	fracture: leg or foot	Employee fell while walking on uneven ballast.
2	July	18	NJ	57	fracture: leg or foot	Employee lost balance while adjusting hand brakes in a yard.
3	July	19	MO	46	fracture: leg or foot	Employee fell while walking on an uneven surface.
4	July	26	FL	64	fracture: torso	Employee slipped on step of equipment and fell.
5	July	29	TX	46	fracture: leg or foot	Employee tripped and fell in yard.
6	August	02	SD	49	fracture: torso	Employee injured in washout derailment.
7	August	02	SD	53	fracture: leg or foot	Employee injured in washout derailment.
8	August	03	ID	27	fracture: torso	Employee injured while lining a switch at an industry.
9	August	06	MS	50	fracture: leg or foot	Employee tripped on debris on track and fell.
10	August	24	MO	55	fracture: leg or foot	Employee fell while on stairs of a moving locomotive.
11	August	28	KS	45	fracture: head or face	Employee struck by fallings debris after load shifted in transport.
12	September	04	TX	48	fracture: leg or foot	Employee injured when they fell off a railcar.
13	September	05	WI	35	fracture: leg or foot	Employee was injured while stepping off a stationary locomotive.
14	September	06	NE	55	fracture: leg or foot	Employee injured while mounting a car to apply a handbrake.
15	September	20	OR	34	amputation: arm/fingers	Employee injured when they were struck by a railcar.
16	September	24	PA	24	fracture: leg or foot	Employee tripped on debris while walking in yard.
17	September	24	TX	67	fracture: leg or foot	Employee lost balance and fell in yard.
18	September	26	OR	34	fracture: torso	Employee injured while dismounting a moving locomotive.