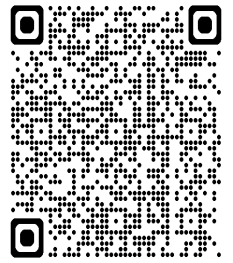




Share Knowledge ~ Save a Life  
**ZERO FATALITIES**



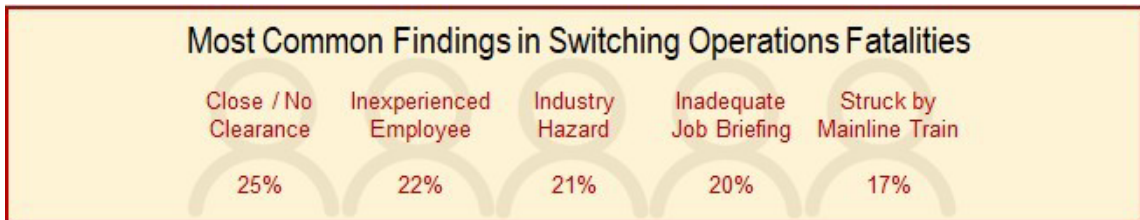
# SOFA ALERT

***PLEASE POST IMMEDIATELY***

**Employee Fatality: On December 13, 2025:** A conductor was fatally injured while switching cars. A train with two empty blocks totaling 181 cars was performing a set out. The train stopped, cut away from the rear block of 103 empty coal cars, and pulled north with the lead block of 78 empty aggregate cars to subsequently shove back into a siding. However, the lead portion of the rear block left on the main track was positioned north of the clearance point of the switch. The movement started shoving southward at approximately 4 mph with the intention of going into the siding but struck the cars standing on the main track. The impact derailed one car and caused another two to tip onto their sides trapping the conductor underneath.

### Take Away

*While this recent case has not yet been analyzed, the SOFA Working Group reminds all employees to remain vigilant during switching operations, especially when switching between adjacent tracks. The working group would like to encourage stakeholders to ensure that equipment is standing clear of adjacent tracks before beginning a shove movement, especially during continuous switching operations. Last, but not least, stop the movement in instances of uncertainty and remember to always hold a job briefing whenever the job or situation changes.*



As a cross-industry collaboration for over 20 years, the SOFA Working Group has identified the Possible Contributing Factors for more than 210 switching operations fatalities since 1992. The SOFA Working Group reports its finding and emerging data trends with the goal of zero fatalities in the railroad industry.