



Fatality Analysis of Maintenance-of-way
Employees and Signalmen

FAMES



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FAMES ALERT

PLEASE POST IMMEDIATELY

February 23, 2026: At approximately 11:20 am (EST) a 39-year-old maintenance-of-way employee with 4.5 years of service was struck and fatally injured by a work train in Lancaster, PA. A maintenance-of-way work group was cleaning snow from switches when the employee was struck.

Take Away

Although this recent tragedy has not yet been analyzed, FAMES reminds all roadway workers:

- An On Track Safety Briefing must be conducted with roadway workers before they foul any track. The briefing must clearly identify the Roadway Worker In Charge and the details of the on-track protection. Every roadway worker must acknowledge their understanding of the on-track protection to be utilized at the jobsite and must agree that the protection being provided is appropriate for the task to be performed before fouling any track.
- Watchmen/Lookouts must focus their sole attention to the detection of approaching trains and equipment.
- Whenever environmental or working conditions change that could interfere with a Watchman/Lookout's ability to detect the approach of a train or provide appropriate warning, the Watchman/Lookout must immediately clear Roadway Workers from the tracks until proper protection can be established.

***The "Take Away" does not insinuate that any rules were violated or that non-compliance existed in this event; it is simply a reminder to always stay alert.**

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