



# SAFETY BULLETIN

## 2026-02

### **SUBJECT: Employee Fatality – Train Approach Warning**

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*This alert does not have the force or effect of law and is not meant to bind the public in any way. FRA will not rely upon this alert as a separate basis for enforcement action or other administrative penalty. Conformity with this alert (as distinct from existing statutes and regulations) is voluntary only, and nonconformity will not affect rights and obligations under existing statutes and regulations.*

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is investigating an accident that resulted in a roadway worker fatality, on Amtrak in Lancaster, PA. At the time of the accident, the fatally injured employee, who had approximately 4.5 years of experience, was using a backpack blower to clear snow from a switch. The employee was part of a maintenance-of-way work group using train approach warning (TAW) as their method of on-track safety. The fatally injured employee was struck by a train traversing main track.

While the investigation into this accident is ongoing, FRA is issuing this bulletin to remind railroads, employees, and contractors of the importance of complying with all Federal rail safety requirements and railroad operating rules when using TAW in the foul of the track. Specifically, FRA reminds railroads, employees, and contractors of the importance of:

1. Understanding and strictly adhering to railroad rules and Federal regulations (49 CFR Part 214, Subpart C) regarding the chosen form of on-track safety, such as TAW;
2. Ensuring all individuals, employees or contractors, assigned to perform maintenance-of-way work on or near the track are provided comprehensive training on railroad rules governing TAW for roadway worker protection;
3. Ensuring railroads conduct sufficient periodic oversight to ensure compliance with railroad rules for roadway workers who utilize TAW;
4. Empowering employees to seek immediate clarification of any safety rule, especially rules for roadway workers who utilize TAW; and
5. Remaining vigilant of the dangers associated with fouling a track and the importance of strictly following all rules associated with the chosen form of on-track safety, such as TAW.

FRA also encourages all stakeholders to review the FAMES<sup>1</sup> alert issued related to this accident, available at: <https://railroads.dot.gov/elibrary/fames-alert-9>.

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<sup>1</sup> The Fatality Analysis of Maintenance-of-way Employees and Signalmen (FAMES) Committee was formed by FRA in collaboration with railroad labor and management representatives. FAMES analyzes fatalities and other incidents, focusing on identifying risks, trends, and factors affecting roadway worker safety and periodically issues findings and recommendations to reduce the risk of future occurrences.



The purpose of this Safety Bulletin is to ensure that the railroad industry and employees are aware of this recent fatal accident. As FRA completes its investigation, FRA may take additional actions as necessary for safety.

For further information, please contact Tim Presser, RWP/RMM Specialist, at [timothy.presser@dot.gov](mailto:timothy.presser@dot.gov) or (208) 241-9458.

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