



SOFA Switching Fatality and Severe Injury Update 1st 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 1st Quarter Fatality

- **February 2, 2019** – A Conductor in Baltimore, Maryland was riding the leading end of a shove when he struck the ladder of an intermodal car in an adjacent track.

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

1 st Quarter: Present and Past Years	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
SI s	13	21	23	9	22	21
Amputations*	0	2	3	1	2	2

Note: Due to occasional revisions to FRA electronic files, current year-to-date counts may not sum to previously published monthly counts.

2019 SOFA 1st Quarter Severe Injuries

#	Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	Description
1	January	08	MO	32	fracture: leg or foot	Employee slipped and fell while riding equipment in a yard location.
2	January	09	MN	55	fracture: leg or foot	Employee slipped while walking near main track.
3	January	20	NY	29	fracture: arm or hand	Employee slipped on ice while walking on ground near standing passenger train.
4	January	24	CT	48	fracture: torso	Employee slipped on ice while walking in yard.
5	February	04	WY	61	fracture: torso	Employee injured in train collision.
6	February	08	NY	48	fracture: leg or foot	Employee slipped while walking on locomotive.



2019 SOFA 1st Quarter Severe Injuries (continued)

7	February	12	CA	50	fracture: leg or foot	Employee jumped off passenger platform onto tracks to retrieve dropped keys braking left leg on landing.
8	February	17	MA	66	fracture: leg or foot	Employee stepped onto platform and his foot slipped causing ankle to fall into the gap and fracture.
9	February	26	NY	54	fracture: torso	Employee injured when train struck a vehicle causing the train to derail into a passenger platform.
10	March	01	IN	53	fracture: torso	Employee stepped down onto ice and slipped.
11	March	06	NY	38	fracture: various body parts	Employee slipped on ice causing injury to his ankle and tailbone.
12	March	08	MT	60	fracture: torso	Employee struck by an engine and injured his pelvis and hips.
13	March	25	IL	61	fracture: torso	Employee fell due to unexpected movement while on a locomotive.