

Share Knowledge ~ Save a Life ZERO FATALITIES



SOFA ALERT



PLEASE POST IMMEDIATELY

Employee Fatality: On June 9, 2025: A conductor with approximately two years of service was fatally injured while performing a shove movement involving a close clearance.

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.

Most Common Findings in Switching Operations Fatalities

Close / No Clearance Inexperienced Employee Industry Hazard Inadequate Job Briefing Struck by Mainline Train

25%

22%

21%

20%

17%

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.