



SAFETY BULLETIN

2025-02

SUBJECT: Conductor Switching Injury

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is investigating a BNSF Railway (BNSF) on-track collision that occurred on August 5, 2025, at 12:10 a.m. in Denver, Colorado, that resulted in a lower leg amputation of the conductor. Based on FRA's preliminary investigation, the train crew was operating two locomotives while shoving 49 cars into a yard track. The conductor, riding the lead car, instructed the move to shove 30 cars and the movement encountered a crossover switch lined for a crossover movement contrary to the intended route. The train then traversed through the switch and into the equipment on the adjacent track seriously injuring the conductor. The conductor had 19 years of railroad experience. This informal Safety Bulletin is intended to inform the railroad industry of this recent accident that resulted in the severe injury of an employee.

Railroads should review this Safety Bulletin with their managers and employees to remind them of the critical importance of proper point protection when shoving equipment, and the determination of "track is clear," and so that all employees who operate switches understand the importance of crossover switch correspondence. Topics incorporated into the review could include:

1. Ensuring that all employees who perform shoving movements understand that the requirement to determine the "track is clear" and the requirements of 49 CFR § 218.99 (*Shoving or pushing movements*), as a whole, require the employees to determine that intervening switches and fixed derails are properly lined for the intended movement.
2. Ensuring that all employees who operate crossover switches are trained on the proper correspondence of crossover switches as required by 49 CFR § 218.107 (*Additional operational requirements for hand-operated crossover switches*).
3. Ensuring that railroad testing officers comply with the requirements of 49 CFR § 217.9(b)(1) and test for compliance with shove procedures and rules on hand-operated switches.

Railroads should also review with their managers and employees Switching Operations Fatality Analysis (SOFA) Safety Alerts of similar previous accidents at:

<https://railroads.dot.gov/sites/fra.dot.gov/files/2021-03/SOFA%20ALERT%20March%202021.pdf>

<https://railroads.dot.gov/sites/fra.dot.gov/files/2024-07/SOFA%20Safety%20Alert%2007-09-2024.pdf>

<https://railroads.dot.gov/sites/fra.dot.gov/files/2025-06/Sofa-Alert-June-27-2025.pdf>

Issued: August 22, 2025

#