



# SOFA Switching Fatality and Severe Injury Update 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2018

## Switching Operations Fatality Analysis (SOFA)

- A voluntary, non-regulatory, railroad-safety partnership of representatives from AAR, ASLRRRA, BLET, FRA, and UTU-SMART-TD
- Seeks to prevent switching fatalities through education based on facts about causes
- SOFA is not part of a rulemaking or regulatory process
- Recognizes that all have responsibility for switching safety: employees, managers, and regulators
- SOFA's goal is Zero Switching Fatalities achieved through education and non-punitive interactions among stakeholders

Find SOFA reports and information at: <http://www.fra.dot.gov/SOFA>

## 2018 SOFA 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Fatality

- **August 13, 2018** – Two-man crew switching at industry during pm shift. After several switching moves, the Conductor radioed for the Engineer to shove into track. Resultant move entered a track that was not designated, striking Conductor resulting in a fatality.



## 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

Full Year: Present and Past Years	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
SIs	51	68	47	57	76	68
Amputations*	7	9	7	5	13	8



## 2018 SOFA 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Severe Injuries

#	Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	Description
36	July	05	MI	49	fracture: head or face	Struck by a motor vehicle at a main/branch location.
37	July	19	NY	22	fracture: leg or foot	RCL employee stepped off locomotive step onto ground, causing injury.
38	July	19	NY	64	fracture: leg or foot	Slipped, fell, stumbled, etc., due to object while walking beside track at a yard location.
39	July	19	VA	38	fracture: leg or foot	Stepped on object while getting off other non-equipment at a work station.
40	July	20	TX	32	fracture: torso	Employee was injured when he was struck by mechanical truck.
41	July	24	MA	46	fracture: head or face	Employee walking beside locomotive had something splash in his eyes causing burning. treated at hospital.
42	July	26	TX	54	fracture: torso	Highway-rail collision/impact involving a moving freight train at a highway-rail crossing at a main/branch location.
43	August	22	IL	46	fracture: leg or foot	Employee was injured while dismounting a locomotive.
44	August	26	MS	37	<b>amputation: leg or foot</b>	While switching employee lost footing, slipped and fell and left toe was amputated
45	September	01	CA	56	fracture: leg or foot	Employee was injured while walking from train to transportation van.
46	September	04	MS	21	<b>amputation: leg or foot</b>	He was riding the catwalk when the joint didn't make due to the couplers not being properly aligned. This caused his legs to get caught between 2 catwalks severely injuring the left leg where we had to have an amputation 6 inches above the knee.
47	September	14	IL	39	fracture: Various body parts	Employee was riding the side of a car during a shove move into an area that was posted as having close clearance. He was knocked off the car when he struck a car he previously set in the adjacent track.
48	September	15	IL	37	fracture: leg or foot	Slipped, fell, stumbled etc. on oil, grease while walking beside track.
49	September	18	IN	47	<b>amputation: various body parts</b>	Employee was switching at an industry and was struck causing a severed lower left leg and crushing injury to his left hand.
50	September	21	CA	39	fracture: leg or foot	Slipped, fell, stumbled while dismounting locomotive.
51	September	27	IL	50	<b>amputation: leg or foot</b>	Slipped fell, stumbled while getting on a moving locomotive