



SOFA Switching Fatality and Severe Injury Update 4th 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>

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
SI's	68	68	47	57	76	68
Amputations*	8	9	7	5	13	8

2018 SOFA 4th Quarter Severe Injuries

#	Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	Description
52	October	04	NE	46	fracture: torso	Injured while riding on ladder of a moving freight train at a yard location.
53	October	08	TX	51	fracture: leg or foot	Employee reported he was walking off the locomotive when he was injured. Occurred at a yard location.
54	October	18	OK	44	fracture: leg or foot	After releasing handbrakes on locomotive, employee slipped while descending the consist and fell into the steps of locomotive. Occurred at a yard location.
55	October	28	TN	47	fracture: leg or foot	Lost balance while walking beside track at a siding location.
56	November	06	NJ	46	Amputation: leg or foot	Employee fell from the side of a moving rail car and sustained an injury to his right leg. Occurred at a yard location.
57	November	13	CT	52	fracture: leg or foot	Slipped, fell, stumbled, etc. due to object while walking on parking lot.



2018 SOFA 4th Quarter Severe Injuries (continued)

58	November	21	NY	52	fracture: torso	Remote Control Operator wearing Control Box, was releasing handbrake from standing railcar using a brakestick. Pulled brakestick and handbrake suddenly came loose causing employee to lose balance and step back, caught heel on snow berm and fell. Occurred at industry location.
59	November	26	IL		fracture: leg or foot	Employee fell, stumbled due to climatic conditions
60	November	28	NJ	45	fracture: leg or foot	Employee rolled his right ankle while stepping off a car onto a platform resulting in a fracture.
61	November	30	IL	37	fracture: leg or foot	Employee dismounting locomotive when door handle broke causing employee to fall. Occurred at a passenger terminal.
62	December	04	FL	26	fracture: leg or foot	After checking switch points, but before lining a switch, employee stepped on the edge of a switch tie and rolled his ankle. Occurred at a yard location.
63	December	04	NY	61	fracture: leg or foot	Slipped, fell, stumbled, other from the side of a standing freight car at a yard location.
64	December	04	OH	39	fracture: torso	“Employee jumped from a rail car. Occurred at a yard location.
65	December	10	MA	59	fracture: leg or foot	Slipped, fell, stumbled, other while walking at a passenger terminal location.
66	December	20	CO	51	fracture: leg or foot	“Employee injured while releasing handbrakes. Occurred at a yard location.
67	December	20	MT	30	fracture: torso	“Employee was breaking zip ties from hoses on a car body and upon release, his arm dropped. Occurred at a yard location.
68	December	31	MT	61	fracture: leg or foot	Employee was injured when they slipped and fell on walkway of locomotive. Occurred at a main/branch location.