



Accident Summary

RRD18MR003

CSX Transportation/Amtrak

Cayce, South Carolina

February 4, 2018

Accident Summary

On February 4, 2018, about 2:37 a.m. eastern standard time, southbound Amtrak train 91, operating on a track warrant, was diverted from the main track through a reversed hand-throw switch into a siding and collided head-on with a stationary CSX local freight train F777 03. The accident occurred on the CSX Columbia Subdivision in Cayce, South Carolina.

The engineer and conductor of the Amtrak train died because of the collision. At least 92 passengers and crew members on the Amtrak train were transported to medical facilities. The engineer of the stopped CSX train had exited the lead locomotive before the Amtrak train entered the siding, ran to safety, and was not injured. The conductor on the CSX lead locomotive saw the Amtrak train approaching in the siding and ran to the back of locomotive. The conductor, was thrown off the locomotive and sustained minor injuries.

The normal method of operation was a traffic control system. On the day prior to the accident, CSX signal personnel had been installing updated traffic control system components to implement positive train control (PTC) on the CSX Columbia subdivision. Signal personnel ceased work at 7:00 p.m. prior to completion of the work in the subject location. The signal suspension remained in place resulting in the dispatcher using track warrants to move trains through the affected area of signal suspension.

Damage was estimated at \$25.4 million. Environmental conditions were night, cloudy skies, light winds, and a temperature of 40°F.

Parties to the investigation include the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), CSX Transportation (CSX), National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak), Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), International Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers-Transportation Division (SMART-TD), and Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS), and the State of South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (SCORS).