

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials

Washington, DC 20594



RRD23FR015 - GREAT BARRINGTON, MA

ACCIDENT SUMMARY

August 4, 2023

A. ACCIDENT

Accident Number: RRD23FR015
Accident Type: Roadway Worker (Contractor) Fatality
Fatalities: One
Date: August 4, 2023
Time: 10:05 a.m. EDT
1405 UTC
Location: Great Barrington, MA
Milepost (MP) 58.7 - Berkshire Line
Railroad Owner: Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)
Railroad Operator: Housatonic Railroad Company (HRRC)
Contract Employer: Middlesex Corporation (Middlesex)
Equipment Involved: Tie Drilling Machine #MS097

B. ACCIDENT SUMMARY

On August 4, 2023, about 10:05 a.m. local time, an employee of the Middlesex Corporation assigned to perform maintenance-of-way work was fatally injured when struck by a roadway maintenance machine (a driller) in Great Barrington, Massachusetts on the Berkshire Line, which is owned by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and operated by the Housatonic Railroad Company (HRRC). The driller's operator was moving the machine north on the track in reverse. The accident employee was operating a leaf blower on the same track when he was struck near milepost (MP) 58.7. Visibility conditions at the time of the accident were daylight and clear; the weather was 66°F with no precipitation.