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Preliminary Report: RRD22FR013

This is preliminary information, subject to change, and may contain errors. Any errors in this report will be corrected when the final report has been completed.

Union Pacific Railroad Employee Fatality

El Paso, Texas
August 29, 2022

On August 29, 2022, about 9:14 p.m. local time, the conductor of Union Pacific Railroad (UP) train, ISIEP-29, was killed when two cars of the train derailed while performing a westward reverse movement near UP's Alfalfa Yard in El Paso, Texas. The train consisted of two locomotives and 61 cars. The conductor was riding on the lead car of the train during a move from Main Track 1 through Control Point Rosedale onto the yard lead when it encountered a derailing device. The derailing device had been placed on the track to protect maintenance-of-way employees installing a switch at the east end of Alfalfa Yard. The first two cars of the lead end of train derailed with the lead car landing on its side and then sliding into a residential property and severing a natural gas line. (See figure.) Conditions were dark, the temperature was 80°F with light wind at the time of the accident.



Figure. Accident scene. (Drone image courtesy of UP.)

While on scene, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigators inspected track structure and equipment involved in the accident; reviewed event recorder data, forward-facing image recordings, radio and telephone recordings, photographs and drone image recordings; and conducted interviews. The NTSB's investigation is ongoing. Future investigative activity will focus on UP's communications procedures related to transitioning train movement from controlled track onto noncontrolled track and its operating practices.

Parties to the investigation include UP, the Federal Railroad Administration, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Union, and the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers.