



Fatality Analysis of Maintenance-of-way
Employees and Signalmen

FAMES



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FAMES ALERT

PLEASE POST IMMEDIATELY

January 15, 2024: At approximately 5:30 am (EDT), a 51-year-old roadway worker with 10 years of service was discovered deceased by a train crew, in the foul of the track. The employee was responding to a crossing signal malfunction and working as a lone worker prior to being discovered.

Take Away

Although this recent tragedy has not yet been analyzed, the FAMES Committee reminds all roadway workers to remain vigilant. Ensure you always conduct a thorough job briefing prior to the beginning of each duty period with a supervisor or another designated employee when you are assigned a duty that requires you to foul a track. A lone worker who chooses to use Individual Train Detection (ITD) as a form of protection is required to complete a Statement of On-track Safety prior to fouling any track.

The FAMES Committee consists of safety representatives from a cross section of rail labor, railroad management, and federal regulators. FAMES is a continuous improvement process that relies on the candid sharing of available data and the views of its participants. To enable the process, FAMES explicitly refrains from making any findings regarding whether any past or present practice or protocol satisfies any legal duty or standard of care.

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