



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD  
**Investigative Hearing**

Norfolk Southern Railway general merchandise freight train 32N  
derailment with subsequent hazardous material release and fires,  
in East Palestine, Ohio, on February 3, 2023

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>EXHIBIT</b>	
24	

Agency / Organization

**Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen**

Title

**Biography of Christopher Hand**



# Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen

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## Christopher Hand

*The following is a biography for Christopher Hand regarding the matter of the investigation of the Norfolk Southern Railway Freight Train 32N Derailment with subsequent Hazardous Material Release and Fires, in East Palestine, Ohio, on February 3, 2023.*

Christopher Hand has accumulated 15 years of experience in the railroad industry, the majority of which were spent working directly in the field for Union Pacific Railroad. His career with Union Pacific Railroad began in 2008 as an Assistant Signaller on a signal gang in Denver, Colorado. Throughout his railroad career, he has held various positions that have contributed to his professional growth and expertise. These roles include Signal Maintainer, Signal Maintenance Foreman, and Electronic Technician Inspector, all allowing for development and a comprehensive understanding of the intricacies and demands of the industry. Mr. Hand's union advocacy started with Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS) Local 24, where, in 2012, he was appointed as the First Vice President, followed by his election as President in 2014. Continuing to serve the union, he assumed the role of Recording-Financial Secretary in 2017, fulfilling the responsibilities of the position until his appointment to BRS's Grand Lodge in April 2019.

As a Grand Lodge Representative, Mr. Hand's first assignment was in the Arbitration Department handling disputes and grievances. During this time, he actively participated in several committees, including the National Advisory Committee (NAC) for Operation Lifesaver, where he contributed his expertise to promote safety and raise awareness about the importance of railroad operation safety. Additionally, Mr. Hand served on the IBT Hazardous Materials Advisory Board. Currently, he holds the position of Director of Research, where his primary focus is on regulatory affairs. In this role, Mr. Hand engages in research and analysis, examining issues relevant to BRS members. By staying well-informed of industry developments and regulatory changes, he ensures that BRS is well-prepared to address emerging challenges and opportunities. Furthermore, he is an active participant on two committees: the Federal Rail Administration's Rail Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) as a voting member, where he contributes to shaping initiatives aimed at enhancing rail safety nationwide, and the Surface Transportation Board's Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC), providing valuable insight from Labor's perspective.