



SAFETY ALERT



KCS Safety Alert

Transportation Department Injury-Tupelo, MS

December 23, 2020

On Wednesday, December 23, at 0700 hours, a conductor with 10 years of service was providing point protection on a shoving move in Tupelo, MS. The locomotive engineer lost radio contact with the conductor, who was later discovered on the ground with catastrophic injuries to both legs.

Although the facts are still being gathered, this tragic event underscores the need to work safely in switching operations. As with all aspects of safety, strict adherence to all operating and safety rules is our best defense to prevent incidents.

Below are some of the most critical rules related to these activities:

- **GCOR Rule 1.1 Safety**
- **GCOR Rule 1.1.1 Maintaining a Safe Course**
- **GCOR Rule 1.1.2 Alert and Attentive**
- **GCOR Rule 1.20 Alert to Train Movement**

Further, employees are reminded of the vital importance of maintaining situational awareness at all times. Distractions, whether nearby or of a global nature, can impact our thought processes and cloud our attention to detail.

Distraction is a sudden turning away from the original focus of attention. An unusual, interesting or upsetting event suddenly occurs, that it is so compelling we can let it turn our mind away from our overall mission so that we stop anticipating.

Effective December 23, each KCS employee is to be briefed on the above rules by their supervisor. Supervisors are to thoroughly review the above rules during safety briefings or contacts, stressing the importance of compliance and maintaining situational awareness.

Remember, rules compliance, quality job briefings and maintaining situational awareness are critical pillars in the prevention of injuries and incidents.