Safety Briefing

Transportation

Employee Seriously Injured on the Powder River Division

SB-2025-09T
Aug. 6, 2025

On August 5, a BNSF employee was seriously injured while yarding a train in Denver Yard in Denver, Colorado, on the Powder River Division.

Please take time to engage with your teams in a Job Safety Briefing (JSB) about this incident and discuss preventive measures to minimize this risk.

While the investigation is still ongoing, this is the preliminary information we know:

At approximately 0015MT on August 5, 2025, an inbound train crew pulled into Denver Yard Track 104 where they secured the rear portion of their train and cut away the head portion to set over to Track 103. There was a standing cut of cars in Track 102 and the crossover switch between Track 103 and Track 102 was lined into Track 102. The conductor was riding the lead car of the shove into Track 103 prior to it colliding with the standing cut of cars in track 102 causing a derailment.

As we continue to investigate the circumstances that led to this incident, we want to take the opportunity to review several critical factors to help ensure all movements are completed safely.

Risk Mitigation

We work in a safe but unforgiving environment with the potential for incidents that could have life-altering or fatal results. **Always remember that no task is more important than your safety and the safety of your co-workers.**

Ask yourself the following questions prior to initiating a shoving movement.

- Did I complete a thorough Job Safety Briefing (JSB) before beginning this task?
- Have I visually verified all switches are lined for my intended route?

Ask yourself the following questions before moving over or through hand-operated crossover switches.

- Are the switches in the corresponding position?
- What position must crossover switches be left in after use?

Please review the following rules:

GCOR 6.5 Shoving Movements SIF

GCOR 6.28 Movement on Other than Main Track SIF

GCOR 8.12 Hand-Operated Crossover Switches SIF

Please note that rules and policies that are in effect at the date of issuance of this publication are subject to change. Contact Safety/Rules to determine validity before you use the information in this document at a later date.

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