

Share Knowledge ~ Save a Life

ZERO FATALITIES

SOFA ALERT

PLEASE POST IMMEDIATELY



July 7, 2024, Melrose Park, IL – While shoving into a track a Conductor was riding the leading end of a tank car and was fatally injured after colliding with a train on the lead track.

Take-Away

While this recent case has not yet been analyzed, the SOFA Working Group reminds all employees to remain vigilant during switching operations by not only protecting shove movements, but also protecting themselves by avoiding close or no clearances hazards. Inexperienced employees should always be mentored when possible. Last, but not least, stop the movement in instances of uncertainty and remember to always hold a job briefing whenever the job or situation changes.

Most Common Findings in Switching Operations Fatalities

Close / No Clearance	Inexperienced Employee	Industry Hazard	Inadequate Job Briefing	Struck by Mainline Train
25%	22%	21%	20%	17%

As a cross-industry collaboration for over 20 years, the SOFA Working Group has identified the Possible Contributing Factors for more than 210 switching operations fatalities since 1992. The SOFA Working Group reports its finding and emerging data trends with the goal of zero fatalities in the railroad industry.