

March 2020: SOFA-defined Severe Injuries (SIs)

(compiled by the SOFA Working Group)

ALWAYS WORK SAFELY

March 2020 is the latest month available for SIs as defined (see definition at bottom of page) by SOFA in its report, *Severe Injuries to Train and Engine Service Employees: Data Description and Injury Characteristics* (July 2001). Feel free to copy, circulate, reformat, and reference this information, extracted from the FRA's publicly-available, electronic casualty file (6180.55a) on May 29, 2020.

SIs in March 2020: There were 6 SIs in March 2020. Two were amputations, both to the leg or foot. The other 4 SIs were fractures: 3 to the leg and foot; and 1 to the torso.

March: Present and Past Years	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
SIs	6	4	3	8	2	7
Amputations (counts included in SIs above)	2	0	0	1	0	0

SIs Year-to-Date: There have been 17 SIs in 2020, January through March. Three were amputations. Note: SI counts herein are provisional, subject to revision. Because of revisions, year-to-date counts may not sum to counts published previously.

Year-to-Date: January through March	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
SIs	17	15	21	23	9	22
Amputations (counts included in SIs above)	3	0	2	3	1	2

Brief Description of the March 2020 SIs:

#	Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	Description
1	March	03	OR	64	fracture: leg or foot	"INJURED RIGHT KNEE AND ANKLE." [accompanying narrative] Occurred at a passenger terminal. <u>Note:</u> Coding indicates employee slipped, fell stumbled, etc., due to irregular surface while walking beside track.
2	March	04	IL	49	fracture: leg or foot	Slipped, fell, stumbled, etc. due to object while walking between tracks at yard location.
3	March	18	LA	41	amputation: leg or foot	"EMPLOYEE WAS SHOVING 21 CARS INTO EAST END OF TRACK 301 ON [name redacted] INTERCHANGE TRACK. LEFT FOOT WAS AMPUTATED." [accompanying narrative] Occurred at a location described as 'other.'
4	March	21	KS	60	fracture: torso	"EMPLOYEE REPORTED HE WAS RIDING A SHOVE IN A CLOSE CLEARANCE TRACK AND WAS INJURED." [accompanying narrative] Occurred at a main/branch location.
5	March	22	PA	36	amputation: leg or foot	Slipped, fell, stumbled, other while riding on side of car at a yard location.
6	March	23	MN	38	fracture: leg or foot	"EMPLOYEE WAS WALKING ON THE SIDEWALK OF THE YARD OFFICE WHEN THEY SLIPPED AND FELL. EMPLOYEE INJURED HIS LEFT KNEE AND FRACTURED HIS RIGHT FIBULAR" [accompanying narrative] Occurred at a yard location.

Comments: Four of the six March SIs involved walking. *Walking* is the most frequent physical act coded in the 2,174 SIs occurring from January 1997 through March 2020. Some 621 SIs (29 percent) were so coded. The table below shows the frequency of events that preceded a SI while walking.

Events Coded with the Physical Act of Walking for SOFA-defined Severe Injuries, January 1997 through March 2020

Event	Count	Percent	Event	Count	Percent
slipped, fell, stumbled, etc. due to object	135	21.7	lost balance	35	5.6
slipped, fell, stumbled, etc. due to climatic condition	134	21.6	stepped on object	19	3.1
slipped, fell, stumbled, other	111	17.9	slipped, fell, stumbled, etc. on oil, grease	12	1.9
slipped, fell, stumbled, etc. due to irregular surface	65	10.5	ALL OTHER EVENTS (each of these 28 event types has occurred less than 8 times)	59	9.5
struck by on-track equipment	51	8.2	totals	621	100.0%

'Severe Injuries' were defined by the SOFA Working Group as FRA-reportable injuries to train and engine service employees that have a clear and verifiable diagnosis and met one or more of the following four criteria: (1) potentially life threatening; (2) high likelihood of permanent loss of function, permanent occupational limitation, or other permanent disability; (3) likely to result in significant work restrictions; or (4) result from a high energy impact to the human body. (SOFA recognizes that other types of injuries and illnesses cause significant harm to employees.)