



Share Knowledge ~ Save a Life
ZERO FATALITIES

SOFA ALERT

PLEASE POST IMMEDIATELY

March 3, 2021: La Miranda, CA – An employee protecting a shove movement while setting out a cut of cars was pinned and sustained fatal injuries after striking equipment that was in the foul.

April 8, 2021: Louisiana, MO– An employee was found fatally injured while controlling a shove movement into an industry track.

May 19, 2021: Newington, NH – An employee switching an industry was fatally injured when caught in between equipment while trying to make a coupling in a curve.

Take Away

While these recent cases have not yet been analyzed, the SOFA Working Group is concerned by the three fatalities that already have occurred during 2021 and 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. Last, but not least, remember to always hold a job briefing whenever the job or situation changes.

Most Common Findings in Switching Operations Fatalities

Close / No Clearance

25%

Inexperienced Employee

22%

Industry Hazard

21%

Inadequate Job Briefing

20%

Struck by Mainline Train

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.