

# April 2020: SOFA-defined Severe Injuries (SIs)

(compiled by the SOFA Working Group)

April 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 June 30, 2020.

**SIs in April 2020:** There were 3 SIs in April 2020. One was an amputation to the leg or foot; the other 2 were fractures, both to the torso.

April: Present and Past Years	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>SIs</b>	3	7	7	8	5	4
<b>Amputations</b> (counts included in SIs above)	1	2	0	0	0	1

**SIs Year-to-Date:** There have been 20 SIs in 2020, January through April. Four were amputations: 3 to the leg or foot, and 1 to various body parts. 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 April	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>SIs</b>	20	22	28	31	14	26
<b>Amputations</b> (counts included in SIs above)	4	2	2	3	1	3

## Brief Description of the April 2020 SIs:

#	Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	Description
1	April	03	AL	41	fracture: torso	Struck by object while riding in, or operating, a motor vehicle on a highway/roadway.
2	April	14	IL	45	amputation: leg or foot	"EMPLOYEE ATTEMPTED TO BOARD MOVING EQUIPMENT & FELL FROM EQUIPMENT. THIS WAS OFF OF THE MAIN LINE, ON [RR name redacted] TRACK RIGHT BEFORE INDUSTRY. MP 28.1 [name of subdivision redacted] SUBDIVISION." [accompanying narrative] Occurred on track coded as 'other.'
3	April	18	CO	54	fracture: torso	Slipped, fell, stumbled, etc. due to object while walking beside track near a standing freight car at a yard location.

**Comments:** The physical act for the April 03, 2020, SI was coded as *riding*, which is the second most common coded physical act behind *walking*. This injured employee was riding in, or operating, a motor vehicle on a highway/roadway. For the 2,177 SIs that occurred January 1997 through April 2020, 356 (16.4 percent) had the physical act coded as *riding*. Below are some characteristics of these 356 SIs.

## Some Characteristics of the 356 SIs to Employees whose Physical Act is Coded as *Riding*

Type of Equipment	count	percent	Location of Injured employee	count	percent	Event Prior to Injury	count	percent
freight car moving	141	39.6	on side of car	137	38.5	collision/impact auto, truck, bus, van, etc.	45	12.6
freight train moving	118	33.1	on end of car	55	15.4	collision between on-track equipment	38	10.7
locomotive moving	28	7.9	in/on locomotive	39	11.0	slipped, fell, stumbled, other	33	9.3
taxi	22	6.2	in/operating vehicle	38	10.7	struck against object	32	9.0
van passenger	18	5.1	on highway-rail crossing	15	4.2	derailments	27	7.6
other non-equipment	7	2.0	other location on locomotive	12	3.4	highway-rail collision/impact	21	5.9
automobile	5	1.4	near on-track equipment on ground	11	3.1	slack action, draft, compressive...	20	5.6
ALL OTHER	17	4.8	ALL OTHER	49	13.8	ALL OTHER	140	39.3
<b>totals</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>totals</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>totals</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>100%</b>

'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.)