

October 2020: SOFA-defined Severe Injuries (SIs)

(compiled by the SOFA Working Group)

October 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 cite, circulate, transmit, reformat, and reference this information, extracted from the FRA's publicly-available, electronic casualty file (6180.55a) on December 30, 2020.

SIs in October 2020: There were 5 SIs in October 2020. All were fractures: 3 to the leg or foot; 1 to the torso; and 1 to various body parts.

October: Present and Past Years	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
SIs	5	7	4	4	4	3
Amputations (counts included in SIs above)	0	0	0	1	0	0

SIs Year-to-Date: There have been 43 SIs in 2020, January through October. Six were amputations: 5 to the leg or foot; and 1 to various body parts. Note: SI counts reported herein are provisional, subject to revision. Because of revisions, year-to-date counts may not sum to counts previously published.

Year-to-Date: January through October	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
SIs	43	59	55	57	37	50
Amputations (counts included in SIs above)	6	4	7	9	6	5

Brief Description of the October 2020 SIs:

#	Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	Description
1	October	13	TX	57	fracture: leg or foot	Lost balance while walking in/on a standing locomotive at a main/branch location.
2	October	14	NY	32	fracture: leg or foot	Slipped, fell, stumbled, etc., due to object while walking beside track at a yard location.
3	October	20	TX	39	fracture: torso	"WHILE REACHING FOR THE HANDBRAKE, THE OTHER CREW MEMBER TOOK OTHER CARS DOWN THE SAME TRACK ON ACCIDENT AND COUPLED INTO HIS CARS, KNOCKING HIM OVER. THE OTHER CREW MEMBER HAD FORGOTTEN TO LINE THE SWITCH TO THE PROPER (INTENDED) TRACK." [accompanying narrative] Occurred at a yard location.
4	October	22	MA	32	fracture: leg or foot	"WHILE WALKING TO LOCOMOTIVE ROLLED ANKLE ON TRAP ROCK AND FRACTURED A BONE IN ANKLE." [accompanying narrative] Occurred at a yard location.
5	October	29	CA	60	fracture: various body parts	"EMPLOYEE WAS SEPERATING EQUIPMENT WHEN THEY WERE ASSAULTED ON THE PLATFORM RESULTING IN FACIAL FRACTURES AND LACERATIONS." [accompanying narrative] Occurred at a passenger terminal.

Comments: Historically since 1997, January, February, and March are among the highest months for SIs. And these three months represent the highest quarterly counts for SIs. As mentioned in the previous updates, one reason for the increase in these three months is the increase in SIs coded as involving slips, trips, and falls.

Quarterly Counts of 2,200 SOFA-defined Severe Injuries, January 1997 through October 2020

	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter	Total
SI Counts	660	471	513	556	2,200
Percent	30.0%	21.4%	23.3%	25.3%	100.0%

Monthly Reported Counts of 2,200 SOFA-defined Severe Injuries, January 1997 through October 2020

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
SI Counts	259	212	189	171	155	145	158	174	181	166	178	212	2,200
Percent	11.8%	9.6%	8.6%	7.8%	7.0%	6.7%	7.2%	7.9%	8.2%	7.5%	8.1%	9.6%	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.)