

August 2020: SOFA-defined Severe Injuries (SIs)

(compiled by the SOFA Working Group)

SIs INCREASE IN WINTER...ONE REASON IS INCREASES IN SLIPS, TRIPS, AND FALLS

August 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 October 29, 2020.

SIs in August 2020: There were 2 SIs in August 2020. Both were fractures: 1 to the torso; and 1 to the leg or foot.

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

SIs Year-to-Date: There have been 32 SIs in 2020, January through August. Four were amputations: 3 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 published previously. See below for a revision in January 2020.

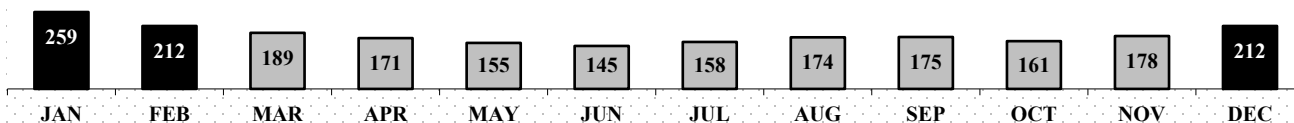
Year-to-Date: January through August	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
SIs	32	45	44	49	28	43
Amputations (counts included in SIs above)	4	3	4	7	5	4

Brief Description of the August 2020 SIs:

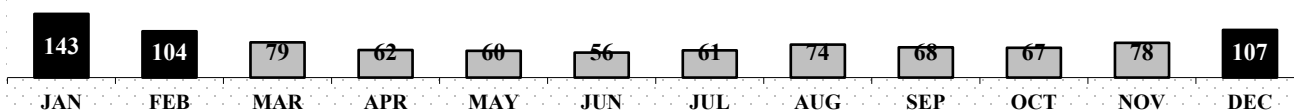
#	Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	Description
1	August	14	MA	69	fracture: torso	"TRAIN WAS ARRIVING AT STATION AND A/C WAS DESCENDING THE INTERIOR STAIRS OF COACH, MISSED A STEP AND FELL HITTING HER SHOULDER ON A POLE. FRACTURED" [accompanying narrative] Occurred at a passenger terminal.
2	August	26	KS	41	fracture: leg or foot	Lost balance while getting on, from the ground, a moving freight car at a yard location.

Comments: SIs increase in winter months. One reason is the increase in cases coded as involving slips, trips, and falls. Annually, such cases constitute 43.8 percent of all SIs. But during the winter months of December, January, and February, these cases rise to 50.5, 55.2, 49.1 percent respectively of total monthly SIs. The elevating effects of weather on SIs may also exist in the months of November and February.

SIs Counts by Month, January 1997 through August 2020



SIs Counts Involving Slips, Trips, and Falls, January 1997 through August 2020



Revision to Previously Reported SIs: Based on the current FRA's electronic casualty file, a SI was added to the January 2020 counts. This case has not been previously reported herein.

Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	Description
January	17	LA	25	fracture: leg or foot	"TRAINMAN WAS OPERATING AN ATV DURING SWITCHING OPERATIONS. AS HE MADE A TURN AT A HIGH RATE OF SPEED, HE WAS THROWN FROM THE ATV AND INJURED HIS LEFT KNEE." [accompanying narrative] Occurred at a yard location.

'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.)