

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

(compiled by the SOFA Working Group)

July 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 September 29, 2020.

**SIs in July 2020:** There were 4 SIs in July 2020. All were fractures: 3 to the leg or foot; and 1 to the torso.

July: Present and Past Years	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>SIs</b>	4	6	7	3	3	7
<b>Amputations</b> (counts included in SIs above)	0	0	0	0	2	0

**SIs Year-to-Date:** There have been 29 SIs in 2020, January through July. 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.

Year-to-Date: January through July	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>SIs</b>	29	39	42	46	22	40
<b>Amputations</b> (counts included in SIs above)	4	3	3	5	4	4

### Brief Description of the July 2020 SIs:

#	Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	Description
1	July	05	IL	52	fracture: leg or foot	“WHILE SETTING OUT CARS FROM HIS TRAIN ON THE MAIN, CONDUCTOR TOOK A BAD STEP AND LOST HIS FOOTING AND FELL. HE FELT PAIN IN HIS LEFT ANKLE.” [accompanying narrative] Occurred at a yard location.
2	July	12	TX	41	fracture: leg or foot	Slipped, fell, stumbled, other while riding on side of a moving freight car at a yard location.
3	July	21	AZ	41	fracture: leg or foot	“EMPLOYEE REPORTED HE SLIPPED ON BALLAST WALKING DOWN HILL, FELL AND HE WAS INJURED.” [accompanying narrative] Occurred at a yard location.
4	July	30	WA	44	fracture: torso	“EMPLOYEE REPORTED HE WAS CROSSING THE TRACKS WHEN HE WAS STRUCK BY A LOCOMOTIVE AND WAS INJURED.” [accompanying narrative] Occurred at a yard location.

**Comments:** The July 30, SI involved being struck by a locomotive. Of the 2,186 SIs occurring since January 1997 through July 2020, 135 SIs (6.2 percent) are coded as ‘struck by on-track equipment.’ Obviously, such events have potential for even greater severity than reported in the July 30 SI.

#### 135 SI Events Coded as ‘Struck by On-Track Equipment’ by Track Type, January 1997 through July 2020

Track Type	Frequency	Percent
yard	97	71.9
main/branch	20	14.8
industry	10	7.4
other track types	5	3.7
siding	3	2.2
<b>total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

#### 135 SI Events Coded as ‘Struck by On-Track Equipment’ by Location of Employee, January 1997 through July 2020

Location of Employee	Frequency	Percent
near on-track equipment, on ground	33	24.4
beside track	28	20.8
between tracks	19	14.1
on track	18	13.3
between cars/loc	17	12.6
on side of car	9	6.7
other	6	4.4
on end of car	5	3.7
<b>total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>100.0%</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.)