

May 2020: SOFA-defined Severe Injuries (SIs)

(compiled by the SOFA Working Group)

May 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 July 30, 2020.

SIs in May 2020: There were 4 SIs in May 2020. All were fractures: 2 to the torso; and 2 to the leg or foot.

May: Present and Past Years	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
SIs	4	5	6	5	2	2
Amputations (counts included in SIs above)	0	0	1	1	1	0

SIs Year-to-Date: There have been 24 SIs in 2020, January through May. 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 May	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
SIs	24	27	34	36	16	28
Amputations (counts included in SIs above)	4	2	3	4	2	3

Brief Description of the May 2020 SIs:

#	Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	Description
1	May	08	GA	48	fracture: torso	Slipped, fell, stumbled, etc. due to climatic conditions while walking between tracks near a standing freight train at a main/branch location.
2	May	14	GA	56	fracture: leg or foot	Overexertion while walking beside track at a yard location.
3	May	20	FL	71	fracture: torso	Lost balance while standing in/on locomotive of a moving freight train. Came in contact with a stair step. Occurred at a yard location.
4	May	29	NJ	49	fracture: leg or foot	"EMPLOYEE ALLEGES WHEN IT BEGAN TO RAIN HE STARTED TO RUN FOR COVER AND WHILE RUNNING HE TRIPPED AND FELL TO THE GROUND INJURING HIS KNEE AND WRIST." [accompanying narrative] Occurred at a yard location.

Comments: Two of the four May SIs were to the torso; and 2, to the leg or foot. The table immediately below shows the body location frequencies for the 2,181 SIs occurring from January 1997 through May 2020. The bottom table gives similar frequencies for 286 amputations, which are included in the 2,181 SIs.

Body Location for the 2,181 SIs occurring from January 1997 through May 2020

Body Location	count	percent
leg or foot	1,138	52.2
torso	703	32.2
arm or hand	170	7.8
head or face	119	5.4
injury to various parts of equal severity	49	2.3
other body parts	1	0.1
<i>one SIs was not coded for body location</i>	1	----
totals	2,181	100.0%

Body Location for the 286 Amputations occurring from January 1997 through May 2020

Body Location	count	percent
leg or foot	165	57.8
arm or hand	114	40.0
injury to various parts of equal severity	3	1.0
torso	1	0.4
head or face	1	0.4
other body parts	1	0.4
<i>one SIs was not coded for body location</i>	1	----
totals	286	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.)