

September 2020: SOFA-defined Severe Injuries (SIs)

(compiled by the SOFA Working Group)

September 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 November 30, 2020.

SIs in September 2020: There were 6 SIs in September 2020. Four were fractures: 2 to the leg or foot; 1 to the torso; and 1 to the arm or hand. The other 2 SIs were amputations, both to the leg or foot.

September: Present and Past Years	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
SIs	6	7	7	4	5	4
Amputations (counts included in SIs above)	2	1	3	1	1	1

SIs Year-to-Date: There have been 38 SIs in 2020, January through September. 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 September	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
SIs	38	52	51	53	33	47
Amputations (counts included in SIs above)	6	4	7	8	6	5

Brief Description of the September 2020 SIs:

#	Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	Description
1	September	01	LA	48	fracture: leg or foot	"CONDUCTOR WAS WALKING DIRECTION OF MOVEMENT PROTECTING THE SHOVE. DOUBLE STACKED CAR SNAGGED LOW HANGING POWER LINE. THIS BROKE THE POWER POLE & POWER POLE STRUCK CONDUCTOR IN LEG & ANKLE. MP 623 [name redacted] SUBDIVISION." [accompanying narrative] Occurred at an industry location.
2	September	07	OK	49	fracture: torso	"EMPLOYEE REPORTED HE WAS INJURED WHEN HE TRIPPED AND FELL WHILE PULLING PINS ON A HAND BRAKE." [accompanying narrative] Occurred at a yard location.
3	September	13	WY	39	fracture: leg or foot	Sudden/unexpected movement of a vehicle while riding on a moving freight train at a yard location.
4	September	18	TX	33	amputation: leg or foot	Lost balance while getting on side of a moving freight car at an industry location.
5	September	24	OH	45	fracture: arm or hand	Sipped, fell, stumbled, other getting off side of a moving freight car at a yard location.
6	September	25	MO	44	amputation: leg or foot	Caught between equipment while adjusting coupler of a moving freight train at a yard location.

Comments: As indicated by the coding in the FRA's electronic file (6180.55a), 4 of the 6 September SIs involved acts and situations often associated with increased risk for casualty. Two of these 4 SIs were amputations.

- sudden/unexpected movement
- getting on moving equipment
- getting off moving equipment
- going between equipment to adjust a coupler

Reminder: As mentioned in the previous update, 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.

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

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.)