

March 2017: SOFA-defined Severe Injuries (SIs)

(compiled by the SOFA Working Group)

March 2017, is the most recent month available for SIs as defined¹ by SOFA in its report, *Severe Injuries to Train and Engine Service Employees: Data Description and Injury Characteristics* (July 2001). Feel free to circulate and reference this information, which was extracted from the FRA’s publicly-available, electronic files on May 30, 2017.

SIs in March 2017: There were 8 SIs in March 2017. One was an amputation to the leg or foot. The other seven were fractures: four to the leg or foot, three to the torso; and one to the head or face.

March: Present and Past Years	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
SIs	8	2	7	5	3	6
Amputations*	1	0	0	1	0	1

*Counts for amputations included in SIs

SIs Year-to-Date: There have been 25 SIs in 2017, January through March. Four were amputations.

Year-to-Date: January through March	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
SIs	25	9	22	21	16	17
Amputations*	4	1	2	2	1	1

*Counts for amputations included in SIs

Brief Description of the March 2017 SIs:

#	Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	Description
1	March	05	CO	36	fracture: torso	Struck by on-track equipment while walking between tracks.
2	March	06	NY	32	fracture: head or face	“CONDUCTOR HEARD NOISE ON ROOF OF LOCOMOTIVE AND ATTEMPTED TO LOOK ON ROOF BY STICKING HIS HEAD OUT THE WINDOW UPON STRIKING AN OVERHEAD CATENARY SUPPORT BRACKET WITH HIS HEAD.” [accompanying narrative]
3	March	07	MS	48	fracture: leg or foot	“EMPLOYEE WAS WALKING BESIDE THE NORTH END LEAK TRACK AT NISSAN WHEN HE STEPPED IN A RUT OR HOLE CAUSING HIM TO TWIST HIS ANKLE AND FALL.” [accompanying narrative]
4	March	15	IA	58	fracture: leg or foot	Slipped, fell, stumbled getting off side of moving freight car at a yard location.
5	March	19	LA	32	fracture: torso	“EMPLOYEE WAS STANDING BETWEEN TRACKS 213 AND 214 TO WATCH THE CARS ON TRACK 213 UNAWARE THAT HE FOULED THE TRACK ON 214 WITH A LOCOMOTIVE APPROACHING.” [accompanying narrative]
6	March	21	WI	60	fracture: torso	“EMPLOYEE WAS CLIMBING THE LOCOMOTIVE STAIRS TO RETURN TO THE CAB WHEN HE SLIPPED AND FELL OFF THE LOCOMOTIVE LANDING ON THE GROUND.” [accompanying narrative]
7	March	29	PA	39	amputation: leg or foot	Slipped, fell, stumbled while riding on side of a moving freight car at a yard location.
8	March	30	IL	44	fracture: leg or foot	“TRIPPED ON METAL PIPE.” [accompanying narrative]

Comments: Based on available information, 5 of the 8 SIs in March involved moving equipment, either being struck, or falling from, or fouling structure. Potential for even more severe trauma was possible to these employees. There have been 25 SIs in 2017, the highest count for these three months going back to 30 SIs in 2008. Find SOFA information and reports: <http://www.fra.dot.gov/SOFA> [accessed on March 30, 2017].

¹ ‘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.