

November 2020: SOFA-defined Severe Injuries (SIs)

(compiled by the SOFA Working Group)

November 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 cite, circulate, transmit, reformat, and reference this information, extracted from the FRA's publicly-available, electronic casualty file (6180.55a) on February 02, 2021. Find SOFA information and reports at <https://railroads.dot.gov/divisions/partnerships-programs/switching-operations-fatalities-analysis-sofa> [accessed January 14, 2021]

SIs in November 2020: There were 7 SIs in November 2020. Three were amputations: 2 to the arm or hand; and 1 to various body parts of equal severity. The other 4 SIs were fractures: 3 to the leg or foot; and 1 to the torso.

November: Present and Past Years	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
SIs	7	4	6	3	5	1
Amputations (counts included in SIs above)	3	0	1	0	1	0

SIs Year-to-Date: There have been 50 SIs in 2020, January through November. Nine were amputations: 5 to the leg or foot; 2 to the arm or hand; and 2 to various body parts of equal severity. 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 November	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
SIs	50	63	61	60	42	51
Amputations (counts included in SIs above)	9	4	8	9	7	5

Brief Description of the November 2020 SIs:

#	Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	Description
1	November	02	KY	45	amputation: various body parts	Struck by on-track equipment (tools/machinery) while riding on side of car of a moving freight train at a yard location.
2	November	02	NE	39	amputation: arm or hand	Caught or crushed by materials while adjusting coupler of a standing freight car at a yard location.
3	November	09	DC	41	amputation: arm or hand	Caught, crushed, pinched, other while closing door of a standing locomotive at a passenger terminal.
4	November	19	IL	58	fracture: leg or foot	"EMPLOYEE REPORTED HE APPLIED HANDBRAKES ON HIS TRAIN, AND FELL FROM RAILCAR ONTO BALLAST AND WAS INJURED" [accompanying narrative] Occurred at a siding location.
5	November	19	LA	69	fracture: leg or foot	"CONDUCTOR COUPLED UP CARS & WAS TAKING OFF THE HANDBRAKE. HE SLIPPED OFF CAT WALK AND INJURED HIS RIGHT LEG. MP 687 [name redacted] SUB." [accompanying narrative] Occurred at a main/branch location.
6	November	21	IL	62	fracture: torso	"EMPLOYEE ENTERED THE TRAIL LOCOMOTIVE TO CONDUCT AN INSPECTION. HE ADVISED HE WAS USING HIS FLASHLIGHT AND DID NOT NOTICE ANYTHING WRONG INITIALLY. AS HE WAS EXITING, HE SLIPPED OFF THE FIRST METAL STEP NEAR THE LOCOMOTIVE RESTROOM AND INJURED BOTH E..." [accompanying narrative] Occurred at a yard location.
7	November	22	MA	40	fracture: leg or foot	Slipped, fell, stumbled, etc. on oil/grease while stepping on floor of a standing passenger car at a passenger terminal.

Comments: Three of the November SIs were amputations. Since January 1997 through November 2020, 291 of the 2,207 SIs that occurred were amputations (13.2 percent). The table below shows the FRA event codes associated with the 291 amputations.

FRA Event Codes Associated with 291 Amputations, January 1997 through November 2020

Event	Count	% of Total	Event	Count	% of Total
struck by on-track equip.	83	28.5%	caught in or crushed by materials	9	3.1%
caught, crushed, pinched, other	51	17.5%	other (describe in narrative)	9	3.1%
slipped, fell, stumbled, other	34	11.7%	slack action, draft, compressive buff/coupling	8	2.8%
caught between equipment	17	5.8%	collision between on-track equipment	5	1.7%
sudden/unexpected movement of on-track equip.	14	4.8%	highway-rail collision/impact	5	1.7%
lost balance	13	4.5%	ALL OTHER CAUSES (no one cause greater than 4)	43	14.8%
			total	291	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.)