

Please Post Immediately



Since January 1992 -- Seven Switching Fatalities Have Occurred in May

Switching Fatalities in May

Seven of the 126 switching fatalities occurring since January 1, 1992 took place in May.

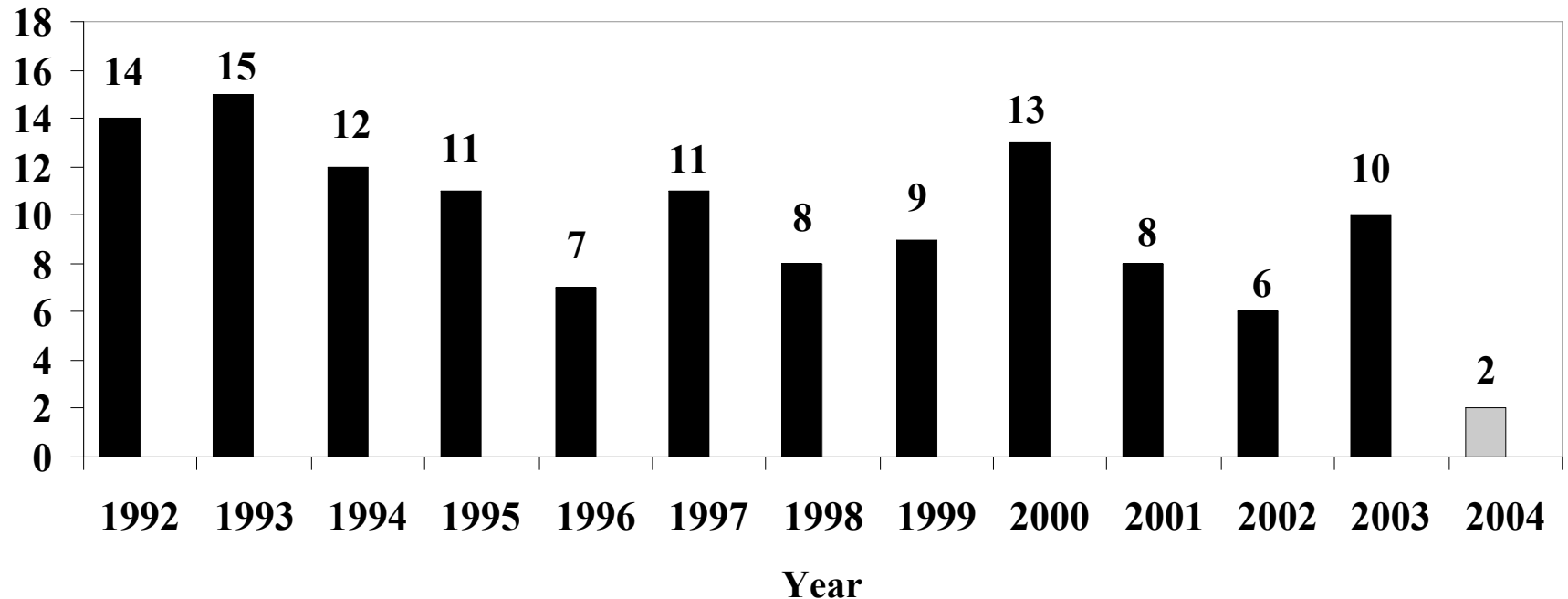
- The average age of the 7 employees was 47.0 years old. The average length of service was 14.6 years with four employees having 2.5 or less years of service. SOFA Operating Recommendation 5 calls for mentoring of less experienced employees.
- Shoving was the direction of movement in 4 of the 7 fatalities. The Switching Operations Fatality Analysis Group considers *shoving* a Special Switching Hazard requiring compliance with proper procedures.

May Switching Fatalities, 1992 through 2003

Date	RR	Location	Age	Service (yrs)	Employee's Job	Employee Act	Employee Location	Fatal Event	Movement Direction
05/22/93	ATSF	El Paso, TX	46	27	yard conductor	standing	alongside on-track equipment	collision with motor vehicle	-----
05/03/95	CSXT	Evansville, IN	52	32	yard conductor	standing	between tracks	struck by on-track equipment	shoved
05/26/98	BRC	Bedford Park, IL	57	36	yard conductor	adjusting drawbar	in car	sudden/unexpected movement of equipment	free-running
05/19/99	NS	Cincinnati, OH	36	1	road conductor	riding	on locomotive	collision between on-track equipment	shoved
05/22/00	CSX	Richmond, VA	38	2	road brakeman	riding	on side of car	struck against object	shoved
05/31/00	UP	Pine Bluff, AR	47	2	yard conductor	riding	on locomotive	collision between on-track equipment	shoved
05/14/02	UP	Pine Bluff, AR	53	2.5	yard brakeman	adjusting coupler	on track	struck by on-track equipment	free-running

126 Switching Fatalities Since 1992

The Switching Operations Fatality Analysis (SOFA) Group has reviewed each switching fatalities back to 1992. Since then, there have been 126 fatalities. The SOFA Group consists of representatives from the UTU, BLET, AAR, ASLRRRA, FRA, and USDOT's Volpe Center. **There are risks to employees engaged in switching operations. On average, 10.3 fatalities occur each year. Already there have been 2 switching fatalities in 2004. Please take caution.**



Two Switching Fatalities So Far in 2004

- On January 14, a NS conductor, with four years service, was killed when struck by a train he was switching in Kankakee Yard, Kankakee, Illinois.
- On March 10, a 46-year old Metro North Commuter Rail conductor, with 27-years service, was killed when struck by his own equipment at the Metro North Stamford Yard, Stamford, CT.