

A L E R T

On Track Protection: Advance Gang Watchman

A Roadway Worker on a neighboring railroad was struck by a passing train while performing his duty as an Advance Gang Watchman.

This demonstrates the critical need to adhere to all On Track Protection Safety Rules and safe practices. Every precaution must be taken to ensure the safety of all employees related to this work. Knowledge and proper training to understand the hazards and type of protection in effect for the location is the responsibility of everyone involved. When working in the foul of tracks always be mindful of the following:

- Hold a Safety Job Briefing to ensure all workers have a clear understanding of work, location, tasks, safety hazards, form of On-Track Protection, need for adjacent track protection, and location where employees will safely clear a track.
- Employees must **not** clear a track by occupying another track unless Working Limits are established on that track.
- No roadway worker shall foul tracks except when necessary in the performance of their duties.
- No work will be attempted that will interfere with the safe passage of trains unless proper protection and permission are provided.
- Gang Watchmen must devote their undivided attention to watching for on-track equipment and provide warning to the Roadway Worker Group
- Gang Watchmen must **not** perform, even momentarily, any other duties.
- Gang Watchmen/ Advanced Gang Watchmen will be stationed, when practical, clear of all tracks at a point where they will have the best view in both directions of approaching on-track equipment and Advanced Gang Watchmen when necessary.
- When an Advance Gang Watchman signals the approach of on-track equipment, or signals that the equipment is clear, the Gang Watchman shall repeat the signal to the Advance Gang Watchman and then signal the Roadway Worker Group

Please refer to the current TRO-5 Safety Rules (2008, 2001, 2004, and 2018) for on-track protection rules in their entirety.

SAFETY HOTLINE: 877-806-8283

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