

Rail worker killed in accident east of Flag

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A freight train struck and killed a worker operating a jackhammer on the railroad tracks near Meteor Crater this morning.

Coconino County Sheriff's Office spokesman Gerry Blair confirmed that the victim was a member of a three-man crew working on the BNSF tracks when he was struck by the westbound train at about 10:45 a.m.

The victim was pronounced dead on the scene. The other workers were not struck or injured.

The accident occurred on tracks about a mile north of Interstate 40 near the Meteor Crater exit. It was not visible from the highway.

Blair could not provide any further details on the victim late this afternoon, pending further investigation. Next of kin had not been notified.

The case remains under investigation by CCSO, BNSF police and the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration.