

Investigation Underway in Railroad Death

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MASON CITY, IA-The investigation is underway into the cause of an accident that killed a railroad worker early Tuesday morning. The man, from central Iowa, died around 2:30am in Mason City.

Initial reports say 36-year-old Georgiy Soloviyov, from Stanhope Iowa was reportedly working on a railroad car coupling when another car rolled into him..pinning him.

These railroad tracks are now serving as a map for Union Pacific workers to figure out what exactly happened that caused one man to lose his life while on the job

Union Pacific Spokesperson Mark Davis said, "Not only local employees that would help with the investigation but then typically we'll have a team from Omaha also assist them in the investigation to determine what occurred."

They say making sure the company knows just what caused the accident is an important part in helping prevent them in the future

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Davis said, "It will be the team's job to determine what occurred here and hopefully employees that will learn from this tragic incident."

But accidents on the tracks are becoming less and less common.

Chief Michael Lashbrook with the Mason City Police Department said, "It's my understanding with Union Pacific is that's it's been over 20 years since they've had such an accident..here in Mason City."

Davis said, "Employee fatalities, not only in Union Pacific, but across the industry are down over the last several years but it's something we always strive to not only reduce fatal injuries but injuries in general."

But railroad companies all over are still working on keeping civilians off of the tracks..not only are they the company's private property, but as this accident shows - they are a very dangerous place for anyone to be.

Lashbrook said, "If you have an employee of Union Pacific that was killed and they know what they are doing, somebody who is just messing around on the railroad tracks isn't going to have half of that knowledge, so if it can happen to him, it can happen to anybody."

The U-P Spokesperson tells us an investigation like this is routine, and determining the exact cause may take a few days.

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