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BNSF employee killed after train collision in Tulsa County

BY JERRY WOFFORD World Staff Writer

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A woman was killed early Thursday when the utility vehicle she was riding collided with a train in west Tulsa County, according to the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

Deborah Ann Beeler, 39, of Claremore, was pronounced dead at the scene from multiple injuries.

Joe Faust, director of public affairs with Burlington Northern Santa Fe, said Beeler was an employee of the railroad and the accident happened on the railroad's yard in Tulsa.


Beeler was riding a 2010 Kubota RTV, driven by Randy Don Battenfield, 27, of Inola, across the railroad tracks in the 1600 block of West 33rd Place about 2:15 a.m., troopers reported.

A railroad flat car, which operates by gravity, was moving down the tracks without an operator and hit the vehicle on the passenger side as it crossed the railroad tracks, according to the OHP.

The collision pinned Beeler for about two hours before she was freed by the Tulsa Fire Department using the Jaws of Life, troopers stated.

Battenfield was not injured, troopers stated.

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