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Wilkinson County Train Accident Leaves One Dead

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By Adam Hammond

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A flag is flying at half mass in Gordon after a train accident leaves one dead.

"Damien was always very easy going. He was the type of guy everyone enjoyed being around. Never down... always smiling. He was just the kind of person that everyone wanted to be around," said the victim's sister Kima Whipple.

Sergeant Andy Hester with the Gordon Police Department says 24 year old Damian Whipple was working here at Rescar when he died at 6:30 Friday night. He says the company restores old train cars and Whipple was riding the back of one when it slammed into another car pinching him in half. Workers say he was a lively spirit and he will be sorely missed.

"Real down to Earth person. Outspoken. He was a nice person," said Whipple's co-worker Aturo Boyd.

Boyd says the railroad accident has been a wake up call to everyone that works on the tracks. Rescar Manager Vic Bowers declined to comment but says Whipple was a dependable employee and top notch guy.

"He was great. Fun loving. Always having a good time, and I didn't ever see him without a smile. He was just great," said the victim's stepfather Willie Underwood.

According to Wilkinson County Coroner Billy Matthews, Whipple was communicating with the navigator of the car via radio. After the rail cars collided Whipple was thrown under the car onto the tracks. He says OSHA is conducting an investigation into the death.