

White Bear man killed in Minneapolis rail accident

by Mark Nicklawske

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MINNEAPOLIS — A White Bear Lake man was killed when a train car derailed while he was conducting a loading operation at the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad yard Dec. 29.

Burlington Northern Santa Fe spokesman Steve Forsberg said Samuel Lundy, 44, was pinned by a car against a building during a routine switching operation in the northeast Minneapolis railroad yards. Lundy is survived by his wife Jacqueline and three children.

“It’s a tragic accident,” said Forsberg. “We want to extend the deepest sympathy to his family and co-workers.”

Forsberg said Lundy was riding point on a string of six box cars as it was being pushed by an engine near a warehouse. Lundy was using a remote control to move the train when it derailed and slammed into the outside wall of the warehouse.

The Minneapolis Police said Lundy was killed when the car pinned him against the wall.

“It was just a freak accident,” said Minneapolis spokesman Sgt. Jesse Garcia. “The back wheels of the last car slipped off the tracks and pushed him against the wall.”

Minneapolis police, fire and ambulance crews were called but Lundy died at the scene.

“The resources needed to move a box car like that take a considerable amount of time,” said Garcia.

The cause of the derailment is under investigation.

Lundy had been an employee of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad for 17 years.

“This is a very sad reminder that ... (railroad operations) are still a potentially dangerous place to work,” said Forsberg.