

Death of CP employee under investigation

BY PAMELA COWAN, LEADER-POST JANUARY 14, 2013



A police officer climbs down from a rail car close to the place where a Canadian Pacific employee was killed in Regina on Saturday.

Photograph by: Michael Bell, Leader-Post, Leader-Post

A Canadian Pacific Railway employee was fatally injured while working at the Regina rail yard early Saturday morning.

The 39-year-old man's death is being investigated by the Regina Police Service, in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Coroner and CP Rail officials.

At about 3 a.m., police, EMS and Regina Fire and Protective Services responded to a report of an injured man at the rail yard on Dewdney Avenue. EMS confirmed the man was dead.

"Although the exact circumstances of the victim's death are the subject of investigation, preliminary indications are the victim was fatally injured by a train movement in the Regina rail yard," said Staff Sgt. Brent Ermel.

"At this point in the investigation, this death does not appear to be suspicious."

Kevin Hrysak, a CP spokesman, confirmed Saturday afternoon that a CP employee was fatally injured

that morning at the Regina rail yard.

"The company's deepest sympathies go out to the employee's family and friends," Hrysak said. "Our main concern right now is with them at this time."

Family members have been notified of the man's death.

Hrysak said the CP employee is a Regina resident, but would not release any further details about the individual.

"This is an internal matter," he said.

"We have launched a thorough internal investigation that will look into what led to this incident and obviously what took place as well."

The fatality took place in the rail yard so it did not affect the main line operations, he said.

"We did halt traffic so we could take all of the necessary steps to gather all of the information and do a thorough investigation," Hrysak said.

The CP police are at the site of the fatality working with a number of groups who are investigating the death including local responders, Transport Canada and the Transportation Safety Board.

"We do have a full team out here conducting an investigation," Hrysak said.

He did not know how long investigators would be at the scene.

"We will be on scene as long as it's required to do a thorough investigation," Hrysak said.

"These types of investigations can go anywhere from a week to upwards of a year for a thorough investigation before any details are released."

When asked if there have been previous workplace fatalities involving CP employees, he said: "I know we haven't had one in Canada for a number of years, but I don't have specifics on when the last incident was."

He said grief counsellors are available, through the company's family assistance plan, to those directly and indirectly involved in the tragic incident.

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