Veteran transit worker killed by subway in Queens after he tripped and fell into path of oncoming train

Louis Moore, 58, a signal maintainer, was working at the 46th St. station in Astoria when the accident occurred. He died at the scene.

BY PETE DONOHUE, ERIK BADIA AND CORKY SIEMASZKO / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
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Investigators at the scene where MTA flagger Louis Moore lost his life when he was dragged to his death after a tool bag allegedly snagged a passing subway car, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly says.

A veteran transit worker died a horrific death Wednesday after he tripped and fell into the path of an oncoming subway train in Queens.

Signal maintainer Louis Moore was on a walkway inside the tunnel called a bench wall when he tumbled onto the tracks as the Jamaica-bound E train was approaching Astoria’s 46th St. station, transit sources said.

“The train operator activated his emergency brakes but couldn’t stop in time,” one of the sources said.
Louis Moore, 58, of Queens, a signal maintainer was struck and killed as his crew made their way back to the platform along the catwalk.

Before he fell, Moore was pulling a rolling valise packed with lights — not standard Transit Authority equipment, sources said. Now investigators are checking whether that bag figured in the tragedy, sources said.

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Earlier, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly suggested that Moore was killed when his tool bag got snagged on a passing subway train and pulled him under the wheels.
Woodside, Queens where Louis Moore was struck and killed by a train while performing work on signals.

Moore, 58, who lived in Hollis, Queens, and had been on the job for nearly eight years, died on the tracks.

His 17-year-old daughter, Shalaine Gray, was too distraught to talk when she returned home with a brown paper bag bearing her dad’s wallet, iPod, keys and other items.

“She’s devastated that her dad’s never going to come home again,” said Paul Navarro of the Transport Workers Union. “He took her out of foster care, he’s been raising her and now she’s alone.”

Medical examiners remove body from the scene of an accident at the 46 Street / Broadway station in Woodside.

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Moore was not married to Gray’s mother and had been raising his daughter alone for six years, Navarro said.

The doomed transit worker was part of a crew that was repairing subway signals when he was killed at 3:21 a.m., the MTA said.
Shalaine Gray, daughter of deceased transit worker Louis Moore (left, carrying bag containing personal effects) arrives back to Hollis Queens apartment on Wednesday.

Moore was a “flagger” whose job was to set up portable lamps and other equipment, used to alert motormen that they are entering a work zone. But because of an earlier shoulder injury, Moore had taken to using a rolling bag to carry his bulky equipment, sources said.

Moore also had a rookie signal maintainer helping him. He was holding open the gate to the platform when Moore fell, sources said.

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Police block off station where a transit worker was struck hit and killed by a subway train in Woodside, Queens.

Jermaine Ramos, a passenger on the train, said there was a "thump" when the worker was hit, but he didn't immediately realize what happened.

"The train rocked a little and then we just stopped," said Ramos, 29. "The police came on and told everybody we had to get off the train."

Safety investigators probing the death discovered part of a railing along the bench wall about 9 feet from where Moore died was loose, sources said. They are looking at whether that played a role in his death.

"The subway is an incredibly dangerous and unforgiving work environment," said Transport Workers Union Local 100 President John Samuelsen.

Moore was the first transit worker killed on the job since maintenance supervisor James Knell fell onto an exposed third rail April 26, 2010, officials said.

The last time a transit worker was fatally struck by a train was April 29, 2007, when track worker Marvin Franklin was killed.

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