

Railroad employee killed by train ID'd

Denis J. O'Malley

Updated 9:12 pm, Tuesday, May 28, 2013

WEST HAVEN -- A longtime Metro-North Railroad employee died Tuesday when a train hit him as he worked at the site of the city's new station.

Metropolitan Transportation Authority spokeswoman Marjorie Anders identified the victim as Robert Luden, 52, of East Haven, who was pronounced dead at the scene after he was hit by an 11:53 train out of New Haven bound for Grand Central Terminal in New York City. Anders did not detail the circumstances of Luden's death but said that MTA police are investigating the incident.

Train service was suspended between the Milford and New Haven stations shortly after the incident and the train was evacuated of its roughly 300 passengers, Anders said.

Metro-North returned one track to service about 1:40 p.m., at which point another train picked up the displaced passengers and continued their trip, Anders said. All Metro-North and Amtrak service resumed at that point as well, she said.

Luden, an MTA employee for 27 years, worked as a track foreman, Anders said. He was part of the crew constructing the forthcoming West Haven station at the time of the incident.

The fatal crash comes 11 days after a derailment in Bridgeport injured more than 70 people, five critically.

Train service between Bridgeport and South Norwalk was interrupted for five days following the May 17 incident.

Staff writer Frank Juliano contributed to this report

domalley@ctpost.com, @domalleyctpost, 203-330-6230