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Train strikes and kills NJ Transit employee

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A NJ Transit employee was killed this morning in Bergen County after he was struck by a train, a transit spokeswoman said.

Simplicio Nino, of Clifton, was fatally struck while he stood on the tracks east of the Ridgewood Station about 8:15 a.m., said NJ Transit spokeswoman Penny Bassett Hackett. Nino, 58, was a welder with 36 years of railroad experience, she said.

The train carrying 20 passengers from Hoboken was en route to Suffern, N.Y., where it was scheduled to arrive at 8:43 a.m. All of the riders transferred to another train at about 10 a.m.

Service on the Main Line was suspended as NJ Transit Police investigated. It was restored by 1 p.m. NJ Transit Executive Director Richard R. Sarles will lead an internal investigation, Bassett Hackett said.

"We feel this tragedy profoundly, particularly given the years of service Mr. Nino had with NJ Transit," Sarles said.