

<http://www.arkansasmatters.com/story/d/story/update-hoxie-train-wreck-victims-identified/41295/mCfi6cE43kGIpydfxdROgA>

Update: Hoxie Train Wreck Victims Identified

08/18/2014 01:51 PM 08/18/2014 02:43 PM

HOXIE, AR - Union Pacific has released the names of the men killed or injured in Sunday's collision of two trains.

The company sends its condolences to the families of Engineer Chance Gober and Conductor Roderick Hayes, who died in the accident. Gober is from White Hall and Hayes is from McKinney, Texas.

The two injured men are identified as:

- Engineer Michael Zampakos, of Maumelle
- Conductor Aaron Jeffery, of Conway

There's no additional information on their conditions.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the collision that happened around 2:30 a.m. along Highway 67 towards Minturn that prompted the evacuation of some residents of the area to Walnut Ridge.

<http://www.arkansasmatters.com/story/d/story/hoxie-train-collision-update/50610/BtzyNthbV0eYE3PsRZi6fQ>

Hoxie Train Collision Update

08/17/2014 11:28 PM 08/18/2014 05:18 AM

HOXIE, AR -- The National Transportation Safety Board wrapped up a press conference earlier this evening.

This, after two people were killed and two others injured during an early morning train collision in Hoxie.

Michael Hiller, who is the lead investigator with the NTSB, made it clear that the organization is not looking into the cause of this accident, but rather the facts.

He did not release the names of the people who died or the two people who were injured.

Also, there was no update on the conditions of those injured.

Hiller mentioned, as well, it's not normal for two trains to travel the opposite direction at the same time, so NTSB will look into why they were doing that at the time of the crash.

As of right now, we don't where the trains were coming from or going to, but Hiller said he hopes to have that answer by tomorrow.

As for those hazardous materials investigators made people evacuate for...it was determined that the materials did not pose an environmental threat, so evacuated residents have been able to go back home.

Michael Hillard said, "The NTSB has put together a team to investigate this accident. We'll look at signal information, track information, and how the crew operated the train."

<http://www.arkansasmatters.com/story/d/story/deadly-ne-arkansas-train-collision-prompts-evacuat/95962/0g0qVJJmDku94DcSIldIPw>

Deadly NE Arkansas Train Collision Prompts Evacuations

08/17/2014 08:37 AM 08/17/2014 11:18 PM

Update:

HOXIE, AR -- From Arkansas State Police:

All roadblocks in and around Hoxie have been removed with the exception of Highway 67 south of Highway 63 and Highway 67 at the intersection with Highway 230.

Roadblocks at these two locations will remain active for up to three days while railroad crews remove wreckage.

Highway 91 remains open as an alternate route for motorists traveling to Walnut Ridge and the Hoxie area.

Most of the evacuees removed from their homes earlier today have been allowed to return.

Original Story:

HOXIE, AR -- Two people are dead and two others injured following a late-night train collision in the northeast Arkansas town of Hoxie, according to Arkansas State Police.

The accident happened around 2:30 a.m. Sunday morning sending smoke pouring into the sky. Amid fear some of the material on the train cars could be hazardous, law enforcement evacuated some residents in the southern part of town. Officials with Union Pacific Railroad report both trains involved had toxic chemical cargo.

Hoxie is roughly 28 miles northwest of Jonesboro. It's immediately south of Walnut Ridge in Lawrence County and has about 2,700 residents.

Motorists traveling along U.S. 67 through Lawrence County should anticipate a detour onto Highway 91 east of Hoxie, according to Arkansas State Police. All highways leading into Hoxie are now blocked by Arkansas State Police and local law enforcement personnel.

According to Imboden Live, the Walnut Ridge Community Center was opened up to take in the evacuees from Hoxie. The Red Cross was also responding to the area.