

<http://www.arklatexhomepage.com/news/domtar-employee-killed-in-train-accident>

<http://www.texas-wrongful-death-lawyer.net/57208/velma-perkins-work-accident-domtar-paper-plant-ashdown.htm>

September 21, 2015

Velma Perkins Killed in Accident at Domtar Paper Plant Accident in Ashdown

Ashdown, Arkansas — There was an accident at the Domtar Paper Company plant in Ashdown this past Friday, September 18, 2015 that left a worker dead. Police said that Velma Perkins, 52 years old, died at the plant in some sort of rail-car accident.

At the moment, it's not clear exactly what happened, but it appears as if a large train car crashed into the side of the building where Perkins was working.

The reports all confirmed that Perkins was working in the shipping department of Domtar as an Equipment Helper for the Switch Engine.

As she working last Friday morning, a rail car somehow lost control and crashed through the side of Perkins' building, hitting her in the process. Paramedics were called, but Perkins died immediately.

She had worked for Domtar since 1991.

The company announced that they were looking into things, but didn't answer any questions about what happened.

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An accident at a local industrial facility leaves one person dead.

Authorities say it happened at the Domtar Paper Mill company in Ashdown, Arkansas where Velma Marie Perkins was killed in a railcar accident.

The Little River Sheriff's office says they got the emergency call around 8 a.m. this morning. They say the accident occurred because a train struck a building while it was backing into it where a woman was working inside when she fatally injured.

Multiple agencies are investigating, including the Arkansas State Police and OSHA.

In a release by Domtar they say they are mourning the loss of their employee, Velma Marie Perkins.

She was an Equipment Helper on the Switch Engine in the shipping department and worked there since 1991.

Counselors are on site to provide assistance to employees.

Flags have been lowered at half-staff outside the facility in her honor.

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<http://www.thv11.com/story/news/2015/09/19/arkansas-woman-killed-in-industrial-accident-in-ashdown/72474638/>

Arkansas woman killed in industrial accident in Ashdown

AP 1:37 p.m. CDT September 19, 2015

Arkansas woman killed in industrial accident in Ashdown



(Photo: KSLA)

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ASHDOWN, Ark. (AP) - An Arkansas woman has been killed in a railcar accident at a paper mill in Ashdown.

The Little River County coroner says 52-year-old Velma Marie Perkins was dead at the scene of the accident at Domtar Corporation's plant in Ashdown on Friday. Perkins was an equipment helper in the shipping department.

Details of the accident were not released. Domtar spokeswoman Tammy Waters told reporters the company is working with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration and with local officials to investigate the accident and that counselors were sent to the site.

Domtar said Perkins had worked for the company since 1991.

<http://m.usw.org/news/media-center/articles/2015/women-of-steel-activist-dies-in-workplace-incident>

Sep 21, 2015

Women of Steel Activist Dies in Workplace Incident

USW Local 1327 member and District 13 Women of Steel activist Marie “Velma” Perkins, 51, was fatally injured Sept. 18, 2015 in a railway accident at Domtar Paper in Ashdown, Ark. She was the Secretary-Treasurer of her Local, a safety leader and actively involved in Women of Steel. Sister Perkins worked at Domtar for 24 years.

She leaves behind a husband, three children, and two grandchildren, in addition to her parents and other family members.

Sister Perkins will be greatly missed by her family, friends, coworkers, and union brothers and sisters. She loved her family, union and Women of Steel, and many remember her beautiful smile, kind heart, and love of life. Sympathy goes out to her family and everyone whose lives she touched.

Funeral services were scheduled for Sister Perkins on Tuesday, September 22 at 10 am with a fellowship gathering at the union hall afterwards. Her obituary can be found [here](#).

The complete details on the railway accident are not known at this time, but preliminary information is as follows: High top cars beyond the normal size were entering a shed attached to a warehouse and built over the tracks to do switch engine maintenance with a personnel pit below. Unbeknownst to the crew the cars struck the shed structure resulting in Sister Perkins’ death.

Emergency Response Team District 13 Coordinator, Lee Morine, is assisting the family and our members. Steve Sallman from the USW Health, Safety and Environment Department is assisting with the investigation. We are committed to uncovering the root causes and the lessons learned and reporting them out to other paper facilities.

