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Worker dies after vehicle hit by train in Missoula rail yard

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A worker died in the Montana Rail Link yard after his utility vehicle was hit by a train Monday morning.

Emergency responders were called to an area of the rail yard under the Scott Street Bridge about 7 a.m. for a collision involving a train and a small utility vehicle, according to Sgt. Travis Welsh, public information officer for the Missoula Police Department.

The victim was an adult male who worked for MRL. The coroner is withholding the man's name until his family has been notified, said Brenda Bassett, public information officer for the Missoula County Sheriff's Office.

"The loss of a fellow co-worker is difficult to process," MRL President Tom Walsh said in a statement to the media. "Our hearts go out to his family, friends and co-workers. There are no words that adequately reflect the sorrow that we all feel at this time. Grief counselors are available to assist during this difficult time."

Walsh added that MRL and its employees place a high priority on safety.

"We will continue to strive to be injury- and accident-free," he said.

Missoula police, the Federal Railroad Administration and National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the incident.

The FRA and NTSB did not return requests for comment Monday.