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BNSF releases names of victims in Edgemont train fatality

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EDGEMONT, South Dakota |

BNSF Railway has identified the two employees who were killed Tuesday when they were struck by a train in Edgemont.

Richard Lessert, 35, of Black Hawk, and Douglas Schmitz, 58, of Custer, were "fatally injured while cleaning a switch ... on the Powder River Division," the railroad said on its website.

Lesedsert was a gang foreman who had been with BNSF for 10 years. Schmitz was a motor vehicle operator who had been with the railroad for 39 years. Both men "worked

in the Maintenance of Way department, which is responsible for the care and repair of the track that the trains operate on," the website said.

No further information was available from either BNSF or the National Transportation Safety Board, which is handling the investigation.