

Massillon man dies in Brewster rail yard accident

Monday

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Larry Thomas, employee of Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway, died Sunday night in a train accident while working at the rail yard.

By Independent staff report

BREWSTER A Massillon man was killed when he was struck by a train while working in the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway yard Sunday night.

Larry Thomas, 37, who lived in southeast Massillon with his family, was pronounced dead at the scene at 10:20 p.m. by Stark County Coroner Dr. P.S. Murthy. An autopsy was to be conducted Monday, said Rick Walters, investigator for the coroner's office.

Thomas was operating his engine remotely in the yard. Investigators believe he had uncoupled a car and stumbled into the path of a train that then ran over him. A conductor called 911 at 9:35 p.m., Walters said. Both village police and fire departments responded.

W&LE, which is the largest Ohio-based railroad and is among the largest regional railroads in the country, handles more than 135,000 carloads per year in Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Maryland, according to the company's website. The company, which is private and has about 400 employees, did not return a phone call Monday.