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## CN employee found dead after fall



First responders at the Sixth Avenue rail crossing Nov. 24 morning. CN employee Michael Stevenson, 42, was out on track inspection duties, but was found dead under a bridge 50 kilometres north of Hope.

— *Image Credit: X. Y. Zeng*

- *by X. Y. Zeng - Hope Standard*
- *Hope BC posted Dec 15, 2016 at 2:27 PM*

CN maintenance employee Michael Stevenson, 42, of Spuzzum was found dead 50 kilometres north of Hope on Nov. 24, said the BC Coroners Service (BCCS).

They add that Stevenson worked as a maintenance worker with CN Rail.

The BCCS press release furthered that just before 5 a.m. on Nov. 24, he was working on a section of track north of Hope and on the east side of the Fraser River. That section had a bridge over a creek. His co-workers could not make contact with him for a period of time.

RCMP Upper Fraser Valley Regional Detachment spokesperson Cpl. Mike Rail said police received a call at about 7:15 a.m. about a missing person.

The BCCS said the co-workers checked and found Stevenson in the creek below the aforementioned bridge, deceased at the scene.

CN spokesperson Kate Fenske noted that the employee was performing track inspection duties and fell from a rail bridge.

“The thoughts and prayers of all of us at CN are with our colleague’s family, friends and co-workers,” said Fenske. “CN has launched a comprehensive investigation into the circumstances of this tragic accident to understand what happened and learn whatever we can to prevent a tragedy like this from happening again.”

BCCS, CN Police, RCMP and Employment and Social Development Canada are continuing their investigation.

Stevenson’s family have been notified of his death.

## COMMENTS:

### [Craig Bigland](#) ·

Works at [Canadian National Railway Company](#)

This story is inaccurate! Mike was a Signals and Communications Maintainer and was a member of the IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers). He was not found dead at the scene, I was one of the first responders, and we kept Mike alive for about 40 minutes, unfortunately the air ambulance arrived too late.

### [Debs London](#) ·

[Cassidy, British Columbia](#)

Thank you for stating the true facts Craig Bigland. Sure wish the press would report the facts instead of what they think they know. I have experienced inaccurate reporting by the press too. So very sorry to all of Mike’s loved ones and to all those who tried to save him.

### [Billie Biggs](#)

Craig- from what family and friends have been told by experts this isn't exactly the case. It wasn't truly breathing that was happening with Mike but just a response of the body. It was confirmed that he died instantly. A small comfort to those who love him to know that he did not suffer.

### [Craig Bigland](#) ·

Works at [Canadian National Railway Company](#)

Billie, I am sorry for your loss. I saw Mike breathing and his heart was still beating upon arrival. We just did what we could as this is what we are trained to do. Take care,  
Craig

### [Jasmine Sometimes](#)

The pain this man's family and friends are enduring at the loss of such a wonderful and beloved man to a senseless and preventable tragedy is unimaginable. Two-man teams on late night maintenance calls and stringent safeguards to prevent further reckless loss of life would be the bare minimum a corporation of CN's size could do to ensure this tragic event is never repeated. Shame on you CN.

**Gail Cleary**

Too bad they waited until four days after his death to replace the missing guardrail. You can really see how concerned they are about employee safety when they will not ensure the most basic safeguards. CN your hollow self-serving words mean nothing to all the people who loved and cared about this man. I sincerely hope you get a fine so large that you now consider it cost effective to replace safety equipment. I also hope that people who made the decision to withhold the safety equipment and send this man out, alone, and to his death, face jail time for their choices.

**Mike Mcsweeney** ·

Engineer at Canadian Pacific Railways

Rip brother ...

**George Hunt** ·

Works at Retired Union Pacific RR

RIP fellow BMWER. I'm praying for the family that they find peace and comfort from God in their time of need.

**Samantha Anne** ·

Works at Government of Alberta

Their thoughts and prayers are with us?? They waited over 2 weeks to make a statement. He deserved better than this. My family is in unimaginable pain, and the fact that this is being kept hush hush and not even talked about by the company until now makes me angry

**Valerie Maine**

Well... now there's a bit of clarification about what happened, I hope that he didn't suffer in any way, that's been worrying me. Thanks again [Billie Biggs](#), your comment helped me notice this article... I had given up looking. He spoke about his personal concerns regarding the safety of the job.