2 CSX employees dead after being hit by train in NE, DC

WASHINGTON (WUSA9) - Two CSX employees are dead after they were fatally hit by an Amtrak train near Union Station late Tuesday night, according to officials.

According to a release from Amtrak, the two employees were struck on the tracks by Amtrak train #175 traveling southbound from Boston around 11:50 p.m. Tuesday. Sometime around 11:30 p.m. officials said the two employees were on the tracks after they got off a CSX train to evaluate it. The CSX train was coming from Baltimore.

A DC Fire and EMS Tweet said rescue crews responded to the tracks near the 1200 block of New York Ave. where they found the two people dead at the scene. One railroad worker was transported to a local hospital for checkup. So far there is no word on what caused the worker's injuries.

Amtrak says there were no injuries on board the train, which was carrying a crew and 121 passengers. According to Marc Magliari, spokesman for Amtrak, riders remained on the train for several hours, but were eventually transferred to another train and taken the rest of the way to Union Station.

Officials said the investigation will continue over the next few days.

CSX released the following statement:

CSX is deeply saddened to report that at approximately 11:50 p.m. Eastern time Tuesday, June 27, two CSX employees tragically lost their lives when they were struck by an Amtrak train on the railroad tracks near the intersection of 9th Street and New York Avenue, N.E., in Washington, DC. Our thoughts are with the families and friends of our employees.

CSX management representatives responded to the scene to assist with the investigation of this tragic incident. At this time the names of the involved employees are being withheld out of respect for the privacy of their families.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, federal and local authorities have conducted at least 31 inspections on CSX since January 1, 2007. The agencies found 26 violations, including 11 in Maryland. Investigators determined six of those were serious. Inspectors found no violations during a Virginia inspection in 2015 that was prompted by a referral.

Federal and local inspectors reviewed Amtrak at least 30 times in that same time frame and found 29 violations. In 2009, an investigation in Indiana found 16 and investigators determined
15 of those were serious. The narratives were not immediately available without a records request.

Officials penalized CSX nearly $19,000 and Amtrak $41,140, according to OSHA records.

The Federal Railway Administration tracks the number of workers hurt or killed while on the clock, and reports thousands of injuries and dozens of fatalities for both companies since 2000.

According to the FRA, CSX tallied 2,966 cases of maintenance workers being hurt on the job between January 2000 and March 2017. The agency reports 17 CSX maintenance employees - about one per year - died in that same time frame while on duty.

The injuries range from either an animal inspect bite to amputations.

Amtrak exceeded CSX in casualties of maintenance workers, counting 5,851 injuries or fatalities from January 2000 to March 2017. The FRA reports eight Amtrak maintenance workers were killed on that time frame.

Rob Doolittle, a spokesman for CSX, said the company has a strong record of employee safety. He said CSX conducts extensive job safety training with its employees, and works toward a goal of zero accidents.

Doolittle added that whenever employees begin a new work project, they’re given a detailed safety briefing.

An Amtrak spokeswoman echoed that sentiment, and said the company makes safety a top priority.

**SERVICE DISRUPTIONS:**

*Trains in the area have resumed service, but will be operating at restricted speeds. Customers can expect residual delays.*