NTSB to Investigate After Train Strikes, Kills Worker in NYC

 Authorities say a Long Island Rail Road worker has been struck and killed by a train.

 June 10, 2017, at 9:13 p.m.

 NEW YORK (AP) — Authorities say a Long Island Rail Road worker has been struck and killed by a train.

 The National Transportation Safety Board tweeted Saturday that it was sending a team to investigate the death.

 The worker was hit by a westbound train at about 10:30 a.m. Saturday near the Queens Village station.

 The victim's name was not immediately released.

 There were delays on the LIRR's Ronkonkoma, Port Jefferson, Oyster Bay and Hempstead branches following the crash.

 The train that hit the worker was the 9:36 a.m. train from Huntington.

 A reporter from Newsday was in the first car of the train and heard the crash. The reporter heard an engineer saying, "Oh my God." Then there was an announcement that a pedestrian had been struck.

 Officials Confirm Man Fatally Struck And Killed By Train At Queens Village Was An LIRR Worker

 by Jake Offenhartz in News on Jun 11, 2017 11:50 am

 The man who was fatally struck by a Long Island Railroad train at the Queens Village stop Saturday was an LIRR employee, an MTA official has confirmed.
The employee was struck just before 10:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, the official said, by a Penn Station-bound train from Huntington. The employee died on the scene as medics were attending to him.

Passenger Ashley Laderer told Gothamist yesterday that she saw "blood and guts on the track," and was told by a conductor to not post any photos because "that was one of our co-workers." Another witness tweeted that those on the train were stuck for at least an hour after the crash, and received boxed water from the crew while waiting. The train was eventually evacuated, and shuttle buses were provided to the passengers.

"As the train kept going, every few yards we would see more gore. Huge pieces of flesh and who knows what else," Laderer said.

Another passenger told the News that she heard a loud thud just before those on the train noticed blood on the windows. "As it dawned on us, grave shared looks, hand over mouths... I think we were first to realize," she told the tabloid.

A Newsday reporter who was on the train also heard a said he heard the crash and then heard an engineer saying, "Oh my god." The MTA was performing maintenance on the tracks at the time, according to the reporter.

Officials have not yet revealed the victim's identity. They are currently investigating whether the worker was supposed to be on the tracks or not.
Commuters waiting for bus service at the Queens Village Long Island Rail Road station after a person was struck by a train Saturday, June 10, 2017. The person died after being hit, an FDNY spokesman said. Photo Credit: Howard Schnapp

The 9:36 a.m. LIRR train from Huntington, due into Penn Station at 10:39 a.m., fatally struck the person west of the Queens Village station at 10:28 a.m., Donovan said.

For several hours on Saturday, trains on the Ronkonkoma, Port Jefferson, Oyster Bay and Hempstead branches were canceled or delayed. By 4:47 p.m., they were back to “operating on or close to schedule,” the LIRR said in a service alert.

A Newsday reporter in the first car of the westbound train from Huntington heard a crash, then felt the train come to a halt. An engineer was heard on the phone saying, “Oh my God,” followed by an announcement on the train that a pedestrian had been hit.

An LIRR worker from Lake Ronkonkoma was killed near Queens Village in August 2012 when he touched the electrified third rail.

MTA worker tragedy causes LIRR misery for Belmont fans
By Melkorka Licea, Larry Celona and Amanda Woods

June 10, 2017 | 1:43pm | Updated

Straphangers catching the LIRR to the Belmont Stakes were snarled by a tragedy on Saturday, when an MTA worker was fatally struck by a train in Queens.

The unidentified victim, who sources said was an MTA foreman, was killed when an LIRR train rammed into him at Queens Village station around 10:20 a.m., according to police.

The worker was on the tracks west of the station when he was hit by a train expected to arrive at Penn Station at 10:39 a.m. that departed from Huntington at 9:36 a.m., said MTA spokesman Aaron Donovan.

Racing fans, presumably unaware why they were delayed, took to Twitter to gripe as the trains set them back big chunks of time – despite increased train service to the big race at Belmont Park in Elmont.

“Why should we have trusted the @lirr to get us to Belmont when they said?” griped Sara Macias on Twitter this morning. “@LIRR got us to Belmont 30 mins behind schedule + staircases on platform closed except one.. packed & can’t move,” she tweeted again, along with a photo of packed crowds.

Another race attendee had to wait an hour to catch a train.

“@LIRR we’ve been waiting on the track for an 1 hr to get to the Belmont?!?,” said Jaime Graham along with the hashtags; “#youhadayeartoplanthis,” “#refund” and “#idiots.”
“One day a year the LIRR has to worry about Belmont and they still f–k it up,” Jiggs McDonald chimed in.

Trains in both directions from Ronkonkoma, Port Jefferson, Oyster Bay and Hempstead Branches are delayed and Westbound trains are bypassing Hollis and Queens Village, according to Donovan.

LIRR announced it would increase service Saturday and operate 21 eastbound trains to Belmont Park, most directly from Penn Station. LIRR will also have trains leaving the Park directly after the race every 15 minutes.

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