Police name man killed in rail car accident

Police have identified the man who died Monday after he was struck and pulled under a rail car as Neil Thomas Touvell. Touvell, 57, worked as a maintenance welder for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company, but was based in Wichita Falls, said BNSF spokesman Joe Faust. Touvell worked for the company for 36 years, he said.

About 11:10 a.m. Monday, police responded to an accident at 103 S. Williams St., west of the Ross-Mirror connector on the railroad tracks, police said.

Amarillo police Lt. Gary Trupe said Monday employees were moving a rail grinder car from one track to another because they were going to repair a leak. Trupe said Touvell was hit by the western end of the train and pulled underneath it.

Faust said grinders are used to maintain the tracks.

BNSF continues to investigate the accident, and no charges have been filed.
Neil Thomas "Tom" Touvell


A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 16, 2012, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Deacon Roland Benoit, celebrant. Rite of committal will follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery under the direction of Owens & Brumley Funeral Home.

A son of the late Julia Jane (Gieger) and Edward Joseph Touvell, Jr. Tom was born on September 8, 1954, in Lancaster, Ohio. He was a 1972 graduate of Fisher Catholic School and later attended college in Colorado. On September 14, 1978, Tom married the love of his life, the former Catherine Elizabeth Faulkner, in Lubbock, Texas. He worked as a welder foreman for the BNSF railroad for many years. He was an avid train enthusiast.

Tom is survived by: his wife, Cathy Touvell of Petrolia, Texas; daughter, Katie Ann Wight, of Dallas; brother, Joe Touvell, of Phoenix, Arizona; sisters, Judy Touvell of Phoenix, Arizona, Marcia McNeil and husband, Patrick, of Chillicothe, Ohio, and Maryann Rutter and husband, Rick, of Lancaster, Ohio; uncle, Paul Gieger and wife, Norma, of Logan, Ohio; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Carolyn and O.D. Faulkner, of Irving, Texas; numerous nieces and nephews.

A Christian wake will be held from 7:00 until 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 15, 2012, at the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.owensandbrumley.com
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